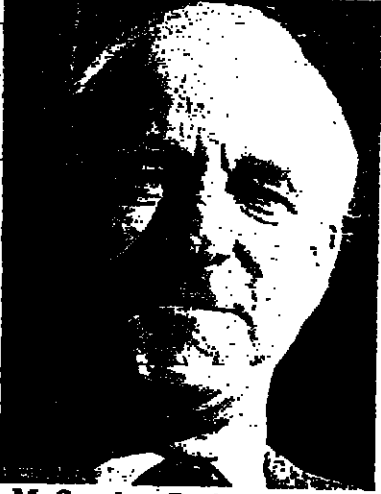


Guinness four accused of 'greed and ambition'



Mr Saunders: Denies charges in Distillers takeover battle.

By Paul Wilkinson and Angela Mackay

Four leading City figures yesterday were accused of greed, ambition and seeking power in their roles in the so-called Guinness Affair.

In the second day of proceedings the Crown prosecution at Southwark Crown Court, south London, said the four were responsible for an illegal share support scheme to bolster the Guinness share price during its take-over in 1986 of the Scotch drinks group, Distillers, in which millions of pounds of secret payments were made.

Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chief executive of Guinness, appeared with three other defendants: Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron Corporation, Britain's second biggest privately owned group of companies; Mr Anthony Parnes, a City stockbroker; and Sir Jack Lyons, a millionaire financier and patron of the arts.

They deny a total of 24 charges brought under the Theft Act 1968, the Companies Act 1985 and the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958.

Mr John Chadwick QC, prosecuting, said Mr Saunders had wanted to be head of a major international company and had set about bidding for Distillers. In order to make his bid successful over a rival bid from Argyll, another Scottish company, he had to keep the Guinness share price artificially high, and enlisted the aid of Sir Jack Lyons, Mr Parnes and Mr Ronson. Mr Parnes and Sir Jack found supporters prepared to buy Guinness shares who would receive indemnities for their costs and success fees if the bid won through. Mr Ronson's Heron group of companies was said to have been paid £5.8 million: £5 million in success fees and £800,000 in expenses.

Mr Chadwick said: "These defendants were so carried away by greed and ambition they were prepared to be dishonest and commit criminal offences. They were so greedy for money and power they were prepared to cross that line which defines what is legal from what is dishonest."

In January 1986 Guinness bid £2.2 billion for Distillers after Argyll offered £1.87 billion a month earlier. The two groups increased their bids to £2.35 billion and £2.3 billion respectively. Both deals offered a cash and share mix.

The prosecution said the defendants "knew exactly what they were doing when they took part in the support scheme. They knew it was likely to drive up the price of Guinness shares artificially. It was done secretly so the public would not know. It was dishonest."

Mr Chadwick said Distillers had become ripe for takeover. The directors of Distillers supported the Guinness bid

and a battle ensued between Argyll and Guinness between January and April, 1986, in an attempt to win over the company's shareholders.

Mr Chadwick said: "The value of each of the offers was dependent on the share price of the company making the offer, so that the higher the Guinness share price was, the more attractive its offer to Distillers shareholders would be."

Mr Richard Ferguson QC, for Mr Saunders, reminded the jury that Mr Chadwick's comments were allegations and that this evidence would be refuted "root and branch".

The start of yesterday afternoon's hearing was delayed for 10 minutes when the four defendants asked to swap places with a section of the press corps to escape a draft from air-conditioning ducts. But no sooner had the move been completed than the court was informed that the judge, Mr Justice Henry, did not want the defendants sitting in with the rumour of the press corps, and the furniture removal operation was reversed.

Mr Saunders faces charges of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; authorizing or permitting Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; false accounting; theft and destroying company documents. Mr Ronson is charged with conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; aiding and abetting Mr Saunders to authorize or permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; false accounting and theft. Mr Parnes faces five charges of false accounting and two charges of theft. Sir Jack Lyons is charged with conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; conspiring to contravene the Companies Act; aiding and abetting Mr Saunders to authorize or permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; false accounting and theft.

The case continues today.

ANC urged to update policy and open talks

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town, and Nicholas Beeston, Soweto

Mr Nelson Mandela returned home in triumph to Soweto yesterday as the South African Government called on the African National Congress to revise its policies and prepare to come to the negotiating table.

In the first official reaction to Mr Mandela's return, the Government urged the ANC to drop its preconditions and attempt to reach a settlement to continue.

And in London, the question of sanctions caused uproar when the Prime Minister accused Mr Neil Kinnock of "possibly taking instructions" from the ANC.

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, condemned the charges that followed as "awful", and Mrs Thatcher withdrew

the remark. More highly-charged exchanges are expected today in an emergency Opposition debate that will attract a three-line whip.

In Cape Town, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister for Constitutional Development, said the Government and Mr Mandela agreed on two key issues: that apartheid must be removed, and that there must be universal suffrage in a united, democratic South Africa.

"However, we specifically find unacceptable his views on sanctions, nationalization and the role of the army," he said.

City Stadium outside Soweto. There, his speech concentrated on local issues, particularly the housing shortage, schools crisis and unemployment, which caused him great sadness.

He had also been shocked by the level of crime, which must be eliminated. "I call on our people to take decisive action to end the mindless violence," he said. Criminal acts had no place in the struggle against apartheid. "I call in the strongest possible terms for us to act with the dignity that our just struggle for freedom deserves."

He also condemned violence by the security forces against peaceful demonstrations, calling on the police to abandon apartheid and serve the interests of the people; and expressed dismay at the continuing factional violence in Natal, where at least 50 people have been killed in clashes since Mr Mandela's release.

As Mr Mandela spoke, international celebration of his freedom continued, with President Gorbachev describing his release as justice and solidarity triumphing over evil and violence. He promised the Soviet Union's "unwavering support for the ANC's just cause and for the entire anti-apartheid movement".

The European Community also issued a belated reaction to Mr Mandela's release, praising the De Klerk Government, but avoiding all reference to sanctions.

After speaking at the Soccer City stadium, Mr Mandela flew by helicopter to the Orlando Stadium - where 50,000 had gathered on Monday only to be disappointed by his non-appearance - and then drove home. There, Continued on page 24, col 7

Joyful Soweto welcomes home its hero



Mutual admiration: An explosion of joy from part of the 120,000 crowd which packed Soweto's Soccer City stadium yesterday to hear Mr Nelson Mandela....

Commons uproar on sanctions

By Nicholas Wood Political Correspondent

In some of the most dramatic and tumultuous Commons scenes in years, Mrs Thatcher yesterday rounded fiercely on critics of her position on South Africa.

The Prime Minister insisted that sanctions had achieved nothing and maintained that she was not alone in seeking their relaxation after the release of Mr Nelson Mandela from prison. She infuriated Mr Neil Kinnock and the Opposition benches by accusing the Labour Party leader of being an African National Congress puppet.

"I think Mr Kinnock possibly takes his instructions from the ANC," she declared.

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, struggled to maintain order, saying: "I have never



...and a warm response to the welcome from the ANC leader.

Rebel tour cut short

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A grim-looking Mike Gatting, captain of the rebel England cricket side, whose tour of South Africa has been virtually abandoned, said yesterday: "I understand a lot more about apartheid now."

The South African Cricket Union announced earlier that the remaining fixtures - a five-day "Test" due to start in Cape Town on Friday and six one-day internationals - were cancelled and that the tour would end on February 22, a fortnight early.

An agreement has been reached with anti-tour protest organizations that there will be no further demonstrations.

Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the South African side, said that the decision to cut short the tour had been taken after weekend talks with the National Sports Congress, an ANC-affiliated group.

Full report, page 48

INSIDE

The healers that can kill

● The accidental death of a woman who took a variety of cold cures has highlighted the potential dangers of taking too many medicines containing paracetamol. On page 12 we find out where this leaves flu sufferers

Words of love

● Three pages of Valentine messages begin on page 19

Portfolio

PLATINUM

● Two readers shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win £2,000 is on page 29

Union steps

Steps towards reunification of Germany begin next week when a committee of experts meets to prepare the way for currency union. Page 24

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Midland Bank merger talks

By Neil Bennett and Lala Yu

Midland Bank has admitted it is having merger talks with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank after Stock Exchange pressure for a statement.

This is the closest an overseas bank has ever come to the takeover of one of the big four high street banks, and comes a week before Midland is expected to announce losses of up to £500 million.

The two banks released a short statement yesterday saying they were discussing "the form and nature of a closer business relationship." A further statement would follow if appropriate, it added.

There have been reports of negotiations in the City for several weeks, and the banks agreed to the statement after an informal request from the Stock Exchange to make the situation clear. Analysts in the City now believe a full merger

could be completed before the end of the year.

Hongkong Bank first became interested in Midland in November 1987 when it bought a 14.9 per cent stake, the maximum allowed under Bank of England rules. Since then the two have swapped subsidiaries and branches and refer business between each other.

More recently the banks have started exchanging senior staff, and have started organizing computer link-ups.

Soviet rioting kills 37

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Ethnic unrest in the Soviet Transcaucasus has spread to two Soviet central Asian republics, showing the breadth of discontent in the Soviet Union and raising the possibility that troops will be deployed simultaneously in five of the Soviet Union's 15 republics.

Moscow Radio reported yesterday that rioting in the Soviet central Asian city of Dushanbe, capital of the republic of Tajikistan, had killed 37 people and security forces had failed to stop the violence spreading to the suburbs. The report said 80 people had been injured.

"The situation in the town is out of control. Skirmishes and fights were and are going on in more than 200 localities," the radio said. Violence was also reported from Frunze, the capital of neighbouring Kirghizia.

Photograph, page 8
Leading article, page 15

Gummer offers 100% 'mad cow' compensation



By Michael Horasby Agriculture Correspondent

Angry farmers who had come to jeer Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, ended up cheering him yesterday as he announced a doubling of the compensation paid to owners of cattle affected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Mr Gummer also told the annual meeting of the National Farmers' Union that there would be better compensation for poultry farmers with salmonella-infected flocks which have to be compulsorily slaughtered.

In a further move to mollify restive farmers, 500 of whom greeted him with cat-calls when he arrived at Kensington Town Hall, west London, Mr Gummer

announced proposals for an increased allocation of milk quotas to small producers and new dairy farmers.

With these concessions, Mr Gummer diverted attention successfully from the farmers' main grievance, the overvalued "green pound", the artificial exchange rate used in agricultural trade in the European Community, which the NFU claims is costing British farmers £500 million a year in lost income.

There were jeers when Mr Gummer, after entering the hall by a side door, appeared briefly at the main entrance only to beat a hasty retreat. The mood changed with his announcement that from today compensation for cattle affected by BSE, or "mad cow" disease, would be raised from 50 per cent to 100 per cent of the average market value of a healthy

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Lloyd's underwriting name 'got involved for cachet not cash'

By David Sapsed

A Lloyd's name argued in the High Court yesterday that he should not be held responsible for a £120,000 loss after the unprecedented collapse of an underwriting company, because he had agreed only to take on the insurance risk for "the cachet and not the cash".

Mr David Becker, an architect of Sloane Street, Chelsea, west London, was neither rich nor well. He comes to court voluntarily to get the matter sorted out. If he is liable, then he is a man who pays his debts — at Aspinalls, on the race track, at Lloyd's or at the supermarket. But if they are not his debts, then he will not pay them, Mr Becker said.

Mr St George is a leading racing figure who stood bail for Lester Piggott, the jockey, who was jailed for three years in 1987 on tax evasion charges. He has 34 horses with Mr Henry Cecil, the trainer. His colt, Michelozzo, won the St Leger last year.

Lloyd's operates on the concept of the gentleman's agreement. Individuals with the necessary funds underwrite insurance risks, ranging from life insurance to earthquake damage.

Mr Webb said there was not much room for misunderstanding over the terms of the agreement between the two men. He suggested that Mr St George "may be making up" his version of the agreement.

He said that Mr Becker wanted to become a name at Lloyd's not to make money, but for the social standing. He settled in England from South Africa in 1959, but spent nine months of each year abroad developing hotel and leisure resorts. He was introduced to Mr St George in 1980 by Sir William Piggott-Brown, the former jockey.

"Mr St George took Mr Becker to the Savoy Grill and

Sea Scout makes waves



Claire Harris, aged 12, showing her status as a Sea Scout after asking for history to be rewritten to recognize her as the first female Scout. The record has to be set straight after three former Girl Guides from Northamptonshire claimed the distinction yesterday (Libby Jakes writes). Claire, who attends her first meeting tonight, was accepted into the 76th Reading (Christchurch) Sea Scouts at the south Berkshire district swimming gala last Saturday, two days after the Scout Association accepted in principle that it should admit girls. "She immediately accepted me and asked to join," Mr David Croton, the troop leader, said. "All the lads get on with her and I'm delighted to have her in the patrol." The Sea Scouts, established in 1969, are governed by Scout Association rules. A keen swimmer, Claire is looking forward to being "one of the lads" when they go canoeing, rock-climbing or abseiling. "I've got a younger brother, so I know what boys are like," she said. "But I've persuaded my best friend that she should join as well, so I'll have some moral support." The Scout Association was less than enthusiastic about its newest recruits yesterday. "We will have no bona fide female members until the amended rules and guidelines are published, which won't happen until the beginning of May at the earliest," a spokesman said.

£1m funding blow for Roundhouse resurrection plan

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

Hopes of resurrecting the Roundhouse as a £5 million multi-cultural arts centre are in ruins after a decision by the Arts Council not to release almost £1 million allocated for the project. The money will instead be distributed among other multi-cultural projects.

The board of the Roundhouse, in north London, is to meet this evening to discuss the loss of the scheme's only certain source of money. It is expected that ambitious plans for the building to become a "centre of excellence" in line with such arts flagships as the Royal Opera House and the National Theatre will have to be abandoned.

Mr Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, informed the chairman of the Roundhouse board, Mrs Jocelyn Barrow, of the decision on Monday. The Roundhouse declined to comment until after tonight's meeting.

A business plan to turn the circular 1840s railway building into a multi-cultural complex with a 900-seat theatre, 300-seat studio theatre, exhibition gallery, meeting room, cinema, restaurant, rehearsal rooms and shops, was submitted to the Arts Council last month.

It depended on £1 million from the council and £4 million from private funding. The Arts Council had rejected the proposals because of "concern about the viability of the plan". Mr Anthony Everett, deputy general secretary of the Arts Council, said. "It considered the proposal for fund raising to be unrealistic."

He said the £300,000 set aside for the Roundhouse for 1990-91 would be made available to other multi-cultural arts projects, as would other funds thought to amount to between £500,000 and £600,000 which were allocated but not spent since the abolition of the Greater London Council in 1986. Three years ago the North London theatre complex lost £8.5 million in GLC "tombstone funding" after an appeal by Westminster Council to the House of Lords.

Further schemes, one for £2.5 million and another for £1.6 million involving funding by a group of London boroughs, founded after rate-capping bit into the arts budgets of local authorities.

Since then the Roundhouse has remained closed, although it is still staffed and draws an annual £200,000 Arts Council grant. A £2 million basic refurbishment programme funded by Camden council has also been completed.

Last year a development plan was devised by Mr Alby James, a consultant artistic director. "The original plan was for a cultural enterprise to build a centre and host events," said Mr James in revealing the plan last October. "We now know that this is not possible. It was entirely dependent on public funding, and we know that we people have to go to the private sector for such funding."

He prepared a business plan with Mr John Baraldi, former chief executive of the Riverside Studios and director of the Waterman's Arms Centre, which the Arts Council considered and rejected on January 24.

The announcement of the decision was delayed pending discussions with other bodies such as Greater London Arts and Camden council.

The Roundhouse's board was reshaped last year to include Miss Thelma Holt, director of the Roundhouse from 1977 to 1985 during its most successful period as a theatre and now the National Theatre's head of touring, the actor Mr Oscar James and Mr William Wilkinson, financial controller of the Royal Shakespeare Council.

Search for killer of Glasgow girl

By Kerry Gill

Police in Glasgow were last night hunting for the killer of a girl, aged 10, who was left to die on snow-covered wasteland within the sprawling Castlemilk housing complex late on Monday night.

Christine Lee was discovered close to her home in Macbride Drive after she failed to return from running an errand for her grandmother, who lives nearby on the largest housing estate in Western Europe.

She was apparently subjected to a brutal attack after being abducted while crossing a sparsely wooded area, known locally as "The Pond". She was left lying under bushes for several hours in near-freezing conditions.

The child was unconscious but alive when she was found, but died on her way to the Victoria Hospital. She never regained consciousness.

Strathclyde Police refused to disclose the nature of her injuries or how she died, but said she had not been sexually assaulted, although they have not ruled out a sexual motive.

Christine had left her grandmother's home in Ballantyne Road, Castlemilk, shortly before 5pm. She should have arrived home within 10 minutes.

Three hours later her mother began making inquiries. By 9.20pm the family reported her missing to the police. Christine was then found by neighbours after a general search by the police and local people.

A taxi driver and a policeman attempted to give her the kiss of life.

Det Supt John Wilson, the officer leading the hunt, said his officers were looking for a weapon but declined to say what kind. He described the

attack as "brutal". Police believe the killer must be a local person as any stranger would have been easily spotted in Castlemilk, a huge, depressed council estate in which up to 40,000 people live on the southern edge of Glasgow.

Mr Wilson said: "Christine



Christine Lee: Left to die on snow-covered wasteland.

Angry Irish anglers to win fishing licence compromise

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Up and down the shores of Lough Corrib yesterday fishermen were toasting a "historic victory" in the battle with their government over fishing rod licences.

For two years the "rod war" has raged in the west of Ireland, costing an estimated £20 million in lost revenue and a further £8 million in earnings lost to the tourist industry. Last night a meeting of the National Anti-Rod Licence Association at Birt, Co Offaly, was expected to approve the latest proposals to end the dispute.

The attempt in 1987 by Mr Brendan Daly, then Minister for the Marine, to impose a £15-a-year licence on fishermen to help fund fish stock management and lake maintenance, angered anglers who

regard fishing the lakes as a natural right.

They refused to pay and hundreds appeared in court, some serving short terms in jail, rather than buy a licence. The issue even made voters defect to the opposition in the general election last summer.

Mr Johnny Keogh is among protest leaders in the picturesque village of Oughterard, Co Galway. It depends for its livelihood on the annual influx of angling tourists who come to fish on Lough Corrib from all over the world. He said the dispute had devastated local tourism and created bitter divisions within the community.

The new legislation, put forward by Mr John Wilson, the Marine Minister, proposes seven angling co-operatives should be set up, each to issue share certificates costing £8 for local fishing and £12 for those fishing nationally.

The system allows members of each co-op to decide for themselves whether share purchases will be compulsory, but it is expected most will elect to pay because the Government retains the option of amending legislation at some future date if contributions do not reach expectations.

Mr Keogh says the proposals are acceptable because nobody is forcing him to pay for his fishing while he recognizes that a contribution to the upkeep of the stocks and the lakes is both reasonable and necessary. "The lakes are commonage," he said. "They are like the mountains. They are the people's property."

Cash will aid garden revival

There were two winners of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum competition.

Mr Graham Wrigley, a retired company manager living in Bexhill, East Sussex, said: "The money will be very useful for repairing storm damage."

"We lost four trees from the garden — a holly, two cypresses and an oak. They were loosened during the first gale, and finally demolished by the second."

The remainder will be spent on a visit later this year to friends in Gothenburg.

He shares the prize with Mr R. Dickie of Oxford, Surrey. Each receives £1,000.

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Chiswick chairs to be returned

There was delight in the museum community yesterday when the London dealer Mr George Levy retrieved two important William Kent chairs for Chiswick House at Phillips.

Designed for Lord Burlington's famous home, they were parted from it during the late 19th century, being distributed around the Duke of Devonshire's homes. Two from the same set can be found at Chatsworth, while another is in the V&A museum.

Yesterday's pair was consigned by the estate of the late Lord Downshire.

Although comparing them to chairs from Chiswick House, the catalogue opted for a modest estimate of £5,000 to £7,000. Mr Levy bought them for £28,600.

Mr Levy said: "They were part of a set of eight described in the 1770 Chiswick inventory as 'gilt-backed stools' for the Red Room."

"The price was a bargain, as they were under-catalogued. It appears Phillips was not even sure they were old. As you chip away at the gold paint, the original gilt emerges from underneath."

This embarrassment apart, the sale of English and Continental furniture was a great success, totalling £663,333, with only 7 per cent bought in, with only £30,800 (double estimate) for a Regency mahogany four-pedestal dining table capable of seating 14.

All lots over £2,500 will be checked

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

All auction lots over £2,500 will soon be checked against a master list of stolen goods prior to sale.

The Art Trade Liaison Committee, which represents major auction houses and dealers, unveiled yesterday plans for their International Art and Antique Loss Register (IAALR), a central, computerized register of stolen art, which is to be launched later this year.

The committee hopes that it will both help curb art theft and make a profit.

The last central list of stolen art was kept by the Metropolitan Police's Art and Antiques Squad. The squad, which has recently been re-formed, was abolished six years ago. The current value of thefts is about £3.5 billion a year, second in financial terms only to drugs. Only 5 per cent is recovered.

However, the arrival of the new register means confusion for the market, as a rival company, LaserNet, already exists.

Both companies are appealing to loss adjusters and to collectors who fail to insure and who would benefit from a private tracing service.

The ultimate winner will be the company with which the police agrees to share access to their confidential files on theft. So far, the Art and Antiques Squad has made no particular commitment to either.

LaserNet has the advantage in that it has been in existence for three months. It is also

Job appraisal system urged on clergy

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Editor

The Church of England was urged yesterday to adopt professional appraisal schemes for the clergy based on personnel management techniques used in industry.

About half the dioceses in the Church have introduced such schemes. They involve an extended interview between the clergyman and his bishop or archdeacon after he has completed a detailed questionnaire, followed by a written report of the interview.

In some dioceses it is run on a voluntary basis, and the clergyman can choose his interviewer from a panel.

In his annual report published yesterday, Canon Ian Hardaker, clergy appointments adviser, said: "Where they are well done, they contribute to the good use of our resources. A review needs to encourage the priest or deacon to new vision and action as well as offering them the opportunity of further training to develop latent skills."

He has circulated suggestions for the drafting of the questionnaire and for the conduct of the follow-up interview, though dioceses are free to adapt them.

The Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry, the General Synod department responsible for clergy training, has also been involved in assisting the development of professional management techniques among the clergy.

This has arisen because its in-service training work operates through a network of diocesan training officers who are called on by the diocesan bishop to assist in introducing

the new techniques. Training for the church official who conducts the "ministry review" interview often takes place as a result of informal contact with local firms which have similar schemes.

Clergy are invited to step back from their day-to-day concerns, to analyse the problems they face and to state their objectives, in order to bring an overall perspective to their work. This often suggests areas where they need further specialist training.

The Rev David Barker, secretary of the continuing ministerial education committee, said the demand for the professional approach had appeared spontaneously all over the country, but the Church had no general policy.

"Bishops are becoming more and more interested in this," he said. Canon Hard-

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THE GUINNESS CASE

Saunders 'driven by greed to dishonesty'

City quartet 'spent millions on clandestine share deals'

By Paul Wilkinson and Angela Mackay

Greed and ambition led Ernest Saunders, the chairman and chief executive of the Guinness brewing group, into a secret illegal share deal to boost his company's position, a jury was told yesterday.

Mr Saunders "wanted to be the head of a major international company", Mr John Chadwick, QC, said for the prosecution at the opening of the Guinness affair trial at Southwark Crown Court, south London.

He set in action a clandestine support scheme with leading City figures to boost the status of Guinness shares so the company would be successful in its takeover bid for the Scottish drinks group, Distillers, Mr Chadwick said.

Although the takeover went through, the secret arrangements were discovered by a Department of Trade and Industry investigation.

Mr Saunders, aged 54, of Putney, west London, Gerald Ronson, aged 50, chairman of Heron International; Anthony Parnes, aged 44, a City stockbroker, and the financier Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, deny 24 charges of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

"These defendants were so carried away by greed and ambition they were prepared to be dishonest and commit criminal offences," Mr Chadwick said.

"They were so greedy for money and power they were prepared to cross that line which defines what is legal from what is dishonest."

Mr Chadwick said that by 1985, Distillers had been ripe to be taken over. "The affairs were in such a state, and its share price was so low that other companies were likely to take the view that if they were able to acquire control, and put in a new management, then they would be able to make substantial profits."

Argyll, another Scottish company, tried to take it over, but the Distillers directors were "determined" to resist the bid, and looked around for help.

"Mr Saunders thought it would be very much in the interests of Guinness to take over Distillers, so that their businesses could be combined," Mr Chadwick said. "He wanted to be the head of a major international business."

Distillers had preferred to be taken over by Guinness than by Argyll, so the directors supported the bid, and the battle between the two companies had ensued from January to April 1986.

Argyll and Guinness had each tried to persuade shareholders of Distillers that its offer was the one to accept.

Mr Chadwick said: "The value of each of the offers made depended on the share price of the company making the offer, so that the higher the Guinness share price was, the more attractive its offer to Distillers shareholders would be, and the more likely it would be that these Distillers shareholders would accept the Guinness offer in preference to the Argyll offer."

"It is for that reason that Mr Saunders, with the help of Mr Parnes and Sir Jack Lyons, set about finding people who would buy large numbers of Guinness shares."

"He did so in order to win the bid which Guinness was making for Distillers. He was so determined to win that he was prepared to take steps which were unlawful."

Guinness had secretly promised to pay losses of potential share-buyers if the share price fell. Buyers were also promised "enormous" rewards amounting to millions of pounds if the takeover bid succeeded.

"None of this was disclosed either to the City authorities or the public. It was kept secret. Arrangements of this kind are unlawful," Mr Chadwick said.

"Ronson was one of the supporters. In his case he received £5 million by way of success fees. Other supporters also received awards. The supporters were in the happy position of making huge payments with no loss. Their purchases should have been declared to the City takeover panel but they were not."

"They were designed to create a false market in Guinness shares in which the price increase was maintained artificially," Distillers shareholders were deceived about the value of Guinness shares, Mr Chadwick said.

"The effect of the false market is that the great mass of small shareholders of Distillers, who of course knew nothing about the share support operation, would be led to accept the offer Guinness was making on a false basis."

"The prosecution says these were highly intelligent men. They knew exactly what they were doing when they

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, of Putney, south-west London, former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, faces two charges of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; two charges of authorizing or permitting Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; eight charges of false accounting; two charges of theft and one charge of destroying company documents.

Gerald Ronson, 50, of Hampstead, north-west London, head of the Heron International group, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; one charge of aiding Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; two charges of false accounting and one charge of theft.

Anthony Parnes, 44, of London, a stockbroker, faces five charges of false accounting and two charges of theft.

Sir Jack Lyons, 74, of Kensington, west London, financier and arts patron, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; one charge of conspiracy to contravene the Companies Act; one charge of aiding Saunders to permit Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; four charges of false accounting and one charge of theft.

took part in the support scheme. They knew it was likely to drive up the price of Guinness shares artificially.

"It was done secretly so the public would not know. It was dishonest."

"They are men not likely to make mistakes. They were so greedy and arrogant that they thought they were above the law, but no matter how wealthy and powerful they may be, the law applies just as it does to anyone else."

After the takeover, the Guinness price dropped "and the supporters asked for their indemnities and success fees," Mr Chadwick said. "This caused problems," he said.

If they submitted invoices on a

truthful basis, the company accountants would discover what had been going on immediately.

So Mr Saunders told Sir Jack, Mr Ronson and Mr Parnes to submit false invoices to Guinness for services rendered, which he authorized to be paid.

"That was dishonest and when the invoices were paid the acceptance of the money was theft," Mr Chadwick said.

Mr Saunders's attitude to his board of directors was "high-handed and dismissive" and he frequently took major decisions without consultation.

The initial decision to bid for Argyll had not been conveyed to the board until January 19, 1986, the day before the offer was made.

"They had no idea about what had been decided," Mr Chadwick said.

A committee of any three directors was set up to deal with the takeover. "That committee never approved any indemnities."

"The directors were not aware of promises made to supporters of indemnities or success fees promised or subsequently paid."

"These demands were not authorized

by those who ought to have control of Guinness's affairs."

Mr Saunders had joined Guinness in 1981 and became its chief executive in 1986, a position he held until 1987, after the affair came to light.

He had studied law at Cambridge, but pursued a career in commerce, specializing in marketing.

In 1976, he went to work for the Swiss confectionary group Nestlé from where he was head-hunted to join Guinness.

"Under his leadership, the business of Guinness both prospered and expanded," Mr Chadwick said.

One major problem facing him was the need to strengthen the management, and to do that he engaged the management consultancy Bain and Co.

Lyons was retained as an adviser to Bain, and it was through that contact that he came to work on Guinness's behalf.

Another Bain consultant involved with Guinness was Mr Olivier Roux, who would be the prosecution's principal witness, Mr Chadwick said.

Mr Roux, aged 39, born and educated in France, joined Bain as a consultant in 1981, and was soon seconded to work on the Guinness account.

Because Guinness was having difficulty recruiting a finance director, he effectively filled that role.

Mr Chadwick said: "Mr Saunders, as managing director and then chief executive, came to value Mr Roux's services and wanted to take him on as a full-time employee at Guinness. Mr Roux resisted that, and he remained employed as a consultant with Bain, but seconded to Guinness."

"Nevertheless he did accept an appointment as director of Guinness in July 1984."

Mr Roux, closely involved in the takeover battle, was in "a unique position" to tell the jury what happened, he said.

By 1986, Mr Saunders had already overseen the successful acquisition of the Scottish whisky distillers, Arthur Bell, and was very much in control of Guinness.

"The board tended to accept most of the proposals Saunders put to them," Mr Chadwick said. As his next move to expand the company he decided to take over Distillers.

The group - which produces Johnny Walker whisky and Gordon's gin - was already resisting a bid from Argyll and its board indicated that it would support an approach from Guinness.

Saunders launched the Guinness bid on January 20, 1986, but Argyll responded on February 6 with an improved offer.

On February 20, Guinness increased its terms, and on March 21 Argyll replied with a further increase.

"It was a bitter and close-fought takeover battle," Mr Chadwick said.

"Saunders decided against a further increase and from that time the success of the Guinness offer depended entirely on the price of Guinness shares. The success of the support operation became crucial to the success of the deal."

"The success of the Guinness offer would be more likely if the Guinness price was kept high and made attractive to Distillers shareholders."

Mr Chadwick went on to describe the other three defendants.

Mr Ronson is the chairman and chief executive of Heron International, which specializes in the motor trade, petrol



The defendants: Mr Anthony Parnes, top left; Mr Gerald Ronson, top right; Sir Jack Lyons, left; and Mr Ernest Saunders.

stations and property investments.

"Ronson is an outstandingly successful businessman," Mr Chadwick said.

Mr Parnes was a successful stockbroker who worked on the Stock Exchange and was a close associate of Sir Jack Lyons, who in 1980 had set up his own City consultancy.

After the Guinness affair came to light, Mr Parnes had gone to the United States where, in September 1987, he was arrested and faced extradition proceedings.

However, he agreed to return voluntarily to the United Kingdom to face the charges on which the British authorities had sought to extradite him.

Mr Chadwick said the price of Guinness shares had to be kept up because it was "crucial to the success of the bid". He gave examples of the importance of maintaining the price of the bidders' shares when what is being offered is a mix of cash and shares.

He said the "enormous payments" of more than £5.5 million to Heron Car Company were made in two instalments. They were made not only to indemnify Heron Car for any losses made in its share purchases, but also in the form of a success fee.

Mr Chadwick said Mr Saunders telephoned Mr Parnes on January 19, 1986 - the day before the bid was made - and asked him to find parties who would support Guinness's share price.

Mr Parnes went to Mr Ronson, an old friend, for assistance four days later. Mr Ronson said that as long as he was indemnified in case the value of the shares dropped he would buy up to £10 million of Guinness stock.

Mr Chadwick said Mr Saunders

telephoned Mr Ronson and thanked him for his support and said he could cover him for any losses.

After discovering that Heron Corp had bought shares worth nearly £12 million, Mr Chadwick said Mr Ronson was "unhappy" and that he was not keen to enter into an open-ended agreement, unless a success fee was included, in which case Heron would buy up to £25 million of shares.

Mr Chadwick alleged Mr Ronson and Mr Parnes agreed that a 20 per cent success fee of £5 million would be fair, and Mr Ronson demanded that Mr Saunders confirmed the arrangement "eyeball to eyeball". That was done over lunch at Guinness's headquarters on April 3.

When the bid closed on April 18, Heron companies had spent almost £25

million and after Guinness's victory was entitled to the £5 million success fee and any indemnities.

Mr Chadwick said that even though Heron was not entitled to any money, the cash was paid "unlawfully" in two payments anyway.

The first payment of £2.875 million including VAT was paid in June 1986 after Heron management sent an invoice to Guinness dated May 23 "for services rendered".

The covering letter was addressed to Mr Saunders who, in turn, told Mr Roux to authorize payment. Mr Roux told Guinness's financial controller, Mr Bailey, that the invoices were for property consultancy services. The money was then transferred from Guinness's bank, the National Westminster, to Heron Management's bank, Barclays at Shoreditch.

Mr Chadwick alleged that the invoice was false, and that both Mr Ronson and Mr Saunders knew this and that Heron had not rendered any services to warrant payment.

Before the second payment was made, Heron Corp sold its Guinness shares and realized a loss of £800,000. That meant Guinness owed Heron Corp a total of £5.8 million, £2.5 million of which was paid in June.

The second payment for the balance of \$4.8 million was made on November 3 to a US subsidiary of Heron, PIMA Savings and Loan, which, according to Mr Chadwick, "had not been doing very well".

Mr Ronson had discussed this payment with Mr Parnes and a member of the Heron board, Mr Goldman. At a breakfast held at the Churchill Hotel in London, Mr Parnes, Mr Goldman and Mr Roux decided that PIMA would invoice Guinness for the balance in US dollars.

Initially PIMA invoiced Guinness \$5 million for "services rendered in the Distillers acquisition" on September 25, but another invoice for \$4.8 million (about £3.5 million) was sent later after Mr Roux telephoned Mr Goldman and said the company had been invoiced too much.

This new invoice was raised by Mr Goldman in London on PIMA Service Corp letterhead, according to Mr Chadwick. He said Mr Saunders told Mr Roux to pay the money and Mr Roux then marked the invoice "OK for payment".

On December 1, the Department of Trade and Industry appointed inspectors to examine Guinness's bid for Distillers, and on January 18 Heron's main board met and decided to repay the monies paid by Guinness.

Mr Saunders, Mr Ronson and Mr Parnes were subsequently interviewed by the DTI inspectors and Mr Ronson also gave an account through his solicitor.

Mr Saunders denied asking Mr Ronson to buy any shares in Guinness and also denied discussing the indemnity. He said he remembered passing only one invoice to Mr Roux and denied knowledge of the PIMA invoices.

Mr Ronson accepted he had participated in the share support scheme and also that Heron had received the indemnity and the success fee. However, he said he relied upon Mr Parnes's advice and did not realize the payments were unlawful.

Mr Parnes admitted to being the intermediary and that he knew Mr Ronson's companies were being indemnified but denied knowledge of a £5 million success fee.

In opening the case, Mr Chadwick told the jury of six men and six women that they should not be concerned by all the pre-publicity the affair had generated.

"You might have expected to be faced with a case of incredible complexity involving thousands of documents, but I can reassure you that its scope is quite limited and relates purely to the attempts to artificially inflate the Guinness share prices."

"You don't need any special knowledge or expertise to decide what are the real questions in this case - that is whether these defendants have been dishonest."

The hearing is the first of two arising out of the Guinness takeover of Distillers.

The second, in which Mr Saunders is also a defendant with three other leading City figures, is scheduled to begin in October.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, for Mr Saunders, said that the jury should remember Mr Chadwick's opening submission contained allegations and that Mr Roux's evidence in particular would be refuted "root and branch".

Mr Chadwick will continue his opening submission today.



Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, who is representing Mr Saunders, and, right, Mr Justice Henry, who is presiding in the case.

Labour U-turn on use of public funds for continental rail links

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, yesterday called for the repeal of section 42 of the 1987 Channel Tunnel Act, prohibiting the use of government subsidies to finance the new international rail services to continental Europe.

Labour has thus abandoned a long-standing bi-partisan agreement that public funds should not be used for the new international passenger services. This presages a bitter debate over the future of the link when the Bill is submitted to Parliament in November.

Under the present arrangement, the Eurostar joint venture, the consortium made up of British Rail and its private sector partners that will build and operate the Channel Tunnel

rail link between London and Folkestone, is prohibited from receiving any financial help from Government.

Mr Prescott fears the cost of constructing the link will force Eurostar to reduce spending on the measures needed to minimise its environmental impact, while much-needed services to the Midlands, the North, and Scotland could be put in jeopardy if they fail to make a satisfactory "commercial return".

Speaking at a conference in Manchester on future priorities for British Rail, Mr Prescott said Labour had originally been "persuaded by the Government that the private sector would be prepared to invest in the new rail links necessary for Britain to take

full advantage of the Channel Tunnel."

However, Mr Prescott said, "that has clearly not happened". "The financial problems that have hit Eurostar have shown that it is difficult enough to persuade the private sector to invest in the tunnel, let alone the rail links that will feed into the tunnel."

During the debate on the recent fare increases today, Mr Prescott is expected to point out that one in every six

InterCity trains is ten minutes late, 112 Network SouthEast trains are cancelled every day, and 800 trains on Network SouthEast are more than five minutes late each day. He will call for the creation of an "independent body" to monitor BR's service.

Patten promises to improve environment record

By Mark Souster

Britain is committed to improving its much criticized record on the environment and fall into line with her European neighbours on a number of key "green" issues.

Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, reiterated the Government's stance during talks with Mrs Johanna Maji-Weggen, the Dutch Minister of Transport.

Mrs Maji-Weggen said: "I got the impression that Mr Patten wanted to prove by actions rather than words that Britain is no longer the dirty man of Europe."

Mr Patten and Mrs Maji-Weggen discussed a number of topics during the 90-minute meeting, including sewage sludge and industrial waste dumping in the North Sea, an issue which has isolated Britain, and a timetable for the safe disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Mr Patten repeated the government commitment to ending the dumping of industrial waste, although he gave no firm timetable. Mrs Maji-Weggen accepted it could not happen overnight. She said Mr Patten had indicated he would do his "utmost to fall into line" on these issues and produce constructive proposals at the third North Sea Conference at The Hague next month.

The Dutch minister said it was known that Britain had its share of environmental problems. "I think Mr Patten will try to solve a number of them. I got a very positive impression in the discussions I had."

She said she had high hopes of progress at the North Sea Conference, of which she is chairman.

The Government is the only signatory to the North Sea Declaration still dumping waste at sea in spite of agreeing to phase it out by the end of last December. Britain has further angered some countries, including Den-

mark and Norway, by applying for three more licences to dump another 51,000 tonnes this year. The application is to be considered by the Oslo commission today.

Britain dumps 12 million tonnes of sewage sludge and industrial waste at sea every year. Mr Patten told Mrs Maji-Weggen that a solution to sea dumping, which Britain argues is still the most viable method of disposal, was high on the agenda. The Department of the Environment said: "Mr Patten took on board what she said and said he would look at her suggestions and respond at the conference."

A delegation of fishermen from the North-east met Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, yesterday to voice fears about the effect of dumping on their livelihoods.

Mr Ray Morse, who owns a 70ft trawler, said that unless immediate action was taken to end dumping, fishermen would be forced out of

business. He said winter catches were down by two-thirds because of seabed contamination of prawn beds.

Proposals in the environmental protection Bill to place curbs on companies that pollute the environment have been criticized by leading economists. Dr Wilfred Beckerman said in a report published by the Institute of Economic Affairs that it made no sense to impose uniform pollution control standards on different economies. A better way would be to have a "market in pollution" with taxes, charges and transferable "rights to pollute", he said.

Local authorities will be required by law to submit waste disposal plans under an amendment to the environmental protection Bill, Mr David Trippier, Minister for Environment and Countryside, said in a letter to authorities emphasizing the importance of producing a national picture on waste disposal.

Mr Ray Morse, who owns a 70ft trawler, said that unless immediate action was taken to end dumping, fishermen would be forced out of

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Race hor 'cured' b acupuncture

By David Gooden
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Legal reform

Hearsay evidence to be allowed in many cases about children

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Children may be spared having to give evidence in many civil court proceedings under legal reforms which will allow hearsay evidence to be admitted.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, has made an order which will allow hearsay evidence in all High Court and county court proceedings involving the upbringing, maintenance or welfare of a child.

The order, made under the Children Act 1989, means that witnesses will be able to say in court what was said to them by parents or other people who look after a child.

Lord Mackay said yesterday that the order intended to "bring about a reform which will help to reduce the stress imposed on children involved in court proceedings by allowing others to give evidence of what the child has said, so that the child will not necessarily have to come to court".

The reform would also ensure that the court hears evidence of what other people are alleged to have said that is appropriate and relevant.

Lord Mackay said. Hearsay evidence is any statement made by someone, other than in the course of giving evidence, which is offered to prove the truth of an assertion made in court.

The reform comes in the wake of a recent Court of Appeal decision which decided that strict rules of evidence should apply in all family proceedings. Before

Reform will allow others to give evidence of what child has said

that ruling, the High Court and county court had often allowed hearsay evidence in spite of the rules.

The effect of this and another ruling was that no hearsay evidence was permitted in the higher courts except under certain limited exceptions by agreement between the parties or under the strict statutory rules. In the High Court and county court, the order removes the rules relat-

ing to hearsay evidence in all cases concerned with the welfare, maintenance or upbringing of a child.

In magistrates' courts, the order applies only to civil proceedings in the juvenile court and allows statements by children as well as statements of ill-treatment, neglect or assault by those in control or by those concerned with the control of the child.

Mr John Spencer, lecturer in law at Selwyn College, Cambridge, welcomed the changes yesterday. He said that they would have an impact, particularly in the magistrates' courts.

However, he said that in the criminal courts there were still big obstacles placed in the way of children giving evidence, arising from a combination of the "competency requirement" and the hearsay rule.

"The first means children aged below eight cannot speak for themselves because they are not deemed competent to do so; the second means that no one else can speak for them because it is hearsay," Mr Spencer said.

Chairs with designs on the plastics scene



Moulded plastic chairs, from a range of exhibits made from the material at "The Plastics Age" exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

Appeal for Law Society to assist rejected clients

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The National Consumer Council is pressing for a rule that would oblige the Law Society to find a lawyer for any client whose case solicitors had refused to take on because it offended their political or moral principles.

The move comes after two leading London legal aid firms, Bindman and Partners and Hodge, Jones and Allen, refused to take the case of a man accused of raping his girlfriend. Some quarters of the legal press have criticized their stance, the result of their general unwillingness to act for defendants in rape cases.

The Law Society, however, has strongly defended the firms' right not to be bound by any kind of "cab-rank" rule which, it says, is inappropriate for solicitors.

Mr Walter Merricks, assistant secretary general, said the society might refer the council's proposals to the proposed Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee.

However, in such cases, which were rare, the society already undertook to find

someone a solicitor. "We would deplore it if this practice became widespread. But solicitors must be free not to take on a case. It might not be in their field of work; they might not be equipped to take it or they might feel, as a matter of conscience, that they cannot take it."

He added: "If the war crimes prosecutions come about, a number of solicitors may find it extremely difficult to provide a proper defence for alleged war criminals."

The issue raises the controversial issue of the "cab-rank" rule, which the Bar wants to see applied to all solicitor advocates who gain wider rights of audience under the Government's legal reforms.

Mr Merricks said the only reason the Bar wanted solicitors to be bound by the rule was to "confine new rights of audience to a few sole practitioners who were not in partnership". It would in effect stultify the effect of the reforms, he said.

Yesterday the NCC said: "Our policy is that solicitors

should have the right to say they do not want to represent someone. But it is not in the interests of justice if people cannot get a solicitor, and legal representation, whatever the reason."

The council would seek an amendment to the Courts and Legal Services Bill in the Commons that would oblige the Law Society to intervene and help where someone had difficulty in finding a solicitor.

"Family practitioner committees have a similar duty to find doctors for patients who have difficulties registering with a GP," the spokesman said.

The two firms involved yesterday defended their decisions. Mr Andrew Hall, of Hodge, Jones and Allen, said he was outraged at the hypocrisy of the criticism in view of the number of firms which refused to do legal aid work.

Mr Brian Raymond, from Bindmans, said the standard method of defending rape in court involved the woman in a "horrendous ordeal". "Her original ordeal is just perpetuated by the courts."

Waddington commends US-style drug penalties

From Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent
Washington

Tough American-style penalties for drug traffickers could be introduced in Britain because of the growing drugs misuse problem, Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Waddington, who is on a six-day drugs fact-finding tour of the United States, said he particularly liked an American proposal that traffickers should have their cars and other property seized. Speaking in Washington he said such tactics

would give traffickers the "shock of their lives".

Cars could be impounded or the convicted dealer might be banned from driving for a long period.

"If it is right to take licences away from drink-drivers why the Dickens shouldn't you consider the same thing for peddlers," Mr Waddington said, adding that he would consider the idea with "great care" on returning to Britain.

The Home Secretary said Britain's drugs problem was small compared to America's, but the recent sharp rise in seizures of cocaine and crack, the

potent cocaine derivative, provided a timely warning.

Police were also aware that the ruthless Jamaican "Yardie" gangs which were heavily involved in drug trafficking in America had "British connections".

Faced by this continuing threat, the Government would continue to bear down on misusers and traffickers armed with a strategy stressing equally enforcement and the cutting down of demand.

Mr Waddington has been told by government officials there was evidence that President Bush's \$10

billion war against drugs was having some success. Recent surveys indicated that consumption among casual, middle-class misusers was falling. However, there was no sign of demand slackening among hardened users or in the poorer inner suburbs.

After meeting Mr Richard Thornburgh, the US Attorney General, Mr Waddington told reporters: "The roots of the problem in the States go back to the days when there was a very much more permissive attitude towards drugs. They have been reaping a rich harvest ever since."

Race horse 'cured' by acupuncture

By David Sapsted

The career of a once-promising race horse, lame for two years with an injury that conventional veterinary medicine could not cure, has been revived by acupuncture, a leading trainer disclosed yesterday.

Mr Nick Gaselee, who trains at Lambourn, Berkshire, said he was within a week of retiring Aho Cumulus, a seven-year-old grey, when acupuncture provided a wholly unexpected cure.

The horse, which went lame after a fall at Cheltenham two years ago, had undergone exhaustive treatment when the stable's chiropractor suggested the problem could be a deep-seated shoulder bruise which acupuncture might cure.

"All I know is that, for two years, we had a horse that was intermittently lame and, after acupuncture, it was better," Mr Gaselee said. "We have raced it twice now and it has finished perfectly sound."

Fewer state pupils get Oxford places

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The number of state school pupils winning the offer of a place at Oxford University has fallen while the number getting places at Cambridge continues to rise, according to figures published yesterday.

While the proportion of sixth formers from comprehensive, grammar schools and sixth-form colleges getting the offer of a place at Oxford fell this year by about 2 per cent to 44.5 per cent, the number at Cambridge overtook those educated in the private sector.

Mrs Anne Lonsdale, spokeswoman for Oxford University, said yesterday that since Oxford had been making "considerable efforts to recruit in the state school sector for a number of years" it was possible the university had reached a threshold in the number of state school pupils it was able to attract.

Just over 44 per cent of applicants to Oxford from

state schools were successful in getting an offer of a place compared with 48 per cent from the public schools, which have traditionally dominated the race for places at Oxbridge.

However at Cambridge 47 per cent of students from the maintained sector were offered places compared with 43 per cent from private schools. The number winning places will depend on performances in this year's A levels. Of the offers made at Oxford, which requires an average of two A grades and a B, 21 per cent depend on A level results.

Oxford also reported that there had been a massive increase in the numbers of students from elsewhere in the European Community winning offers on the same basis as their British counterparts.

Mrs Lonsdale said the 37 students from West Germany offered a place in 1987 had risen to 65 in 1989.

Touch 'affects plant growth'

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

American scientists have discovered a set of genes in plants that are triggered by touch.

The discovery, hailed by botanists as a significant breakthrough, is expected to lead to a new generation of agricultural and horticultural crops that are not disfigured by gales and driving rain.

Instead of sustained bad weather or inhospitable climates creating fields of stunted wheat or causing short, bent fruit trees, it should be possible to engineer genetically species that grow straight and tall in spite of the elements.

This is because scientists who have identified the "touch genes" have found they are also activated by wind, rain and wounding.

Botanists have suspected that specific genes cause plants and trees to adapt to environmentally stressful conditions.

Stomping in trees, for example, can make them stronger and less exposed to wind.

Dr Gordon Browning, a plant geneticist at the Agricultural and Food Research Council's establishment in East Malling, Kent, said: "These findings open the field up making it possible for us to manipulate that characteristic [touch and mechanical response] in plants."

Scientists have already developed techniques to "switch off" the genes in tomatoes that stimulate softening. This is done by inserting a cloned replica of the softening gene "the wrong way round" into the vegetable's DNA, or genetic code.

By genetically engineering an antidote to the "touch genes" botanists should likewise be able to neutralize these undesirable adaptations to

wind, rain and wounding. The discovery, reported in the journal *Cell*, has been made by Dr Janet Braam, a research fellow, and Dr Ronald Davis, professor of Molecular Biology, at Stanford University School of Medicine, California.

The plant they have been working on is *Arabidopsis*, a member of the mustard family, which has been observed to grow smaller when touched every day.

The set of genes they have isolated encode proteins related to calmodulin.

Calmodulin is known to be the primary receptor for calcium, which is important in channelling signals from a plant cell's surface into the cell.

The researchers speculate that touch triggers a change in calcium levels leading to an adaptive response such as permanent bending in wind.

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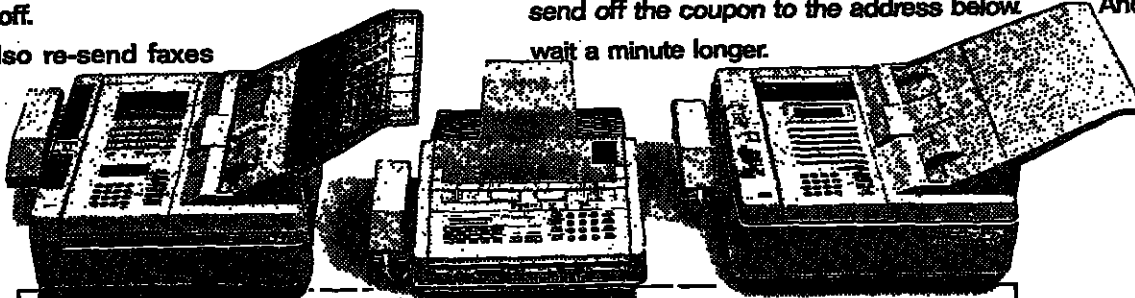
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Two in three girls attracted to science subjects, survey shows

By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

Attempts to interest young women in science are bearing fruit, according to new figures showing that more than two-thirds of girls aged 14 want to study the subject at examination level.

A survey of 530 teenagers calling a national helpline set up by the BBC to advise on GCSE options found 69 per cent of girls wanted to study science up to the age of 16.

The figures are in marked contrast to official statistics, which show fewer than half of all girls want to take the subject

after the age of 14. Based on a random sample from the 1,300 callers who telephoned the Radio One "Which Way Now?" helpline on Monday night, the figures indicate that government attempts to increase the number of girls in science are working.

The survey also found that enthusiasm for modern languages was growing, with 67 per cent of boys and 80 per cent of girls stating they were intending to study a language to GCSE level.

Mr Tom Peel, of the Training Agency, which runs the helpline in conjunction with the BBC, said teenage callers were

also very enthusiastic about the new National Curriculum.

"They had a very positive view of the idea of being able to take a whole range of subjects up to the age of 16," he said. "Almost all of them said they thought it would make learning more flexible."

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, said while the figures were not based on a statistically balanced sample, they showed the education reforms were beginning to work.

"I am delighted that our pupils not only welcome the opportunities that the

National Curriculum is giving but are making it obvious by their choices that the breadth of subjects is a great improvement," she said. "I was particularly heartened to hear that many girls were choosing sciences as their subjects and hope that this trend will continue."

The helpline, which is manned by professional careers advisers, will be open tonight and tomorrow between 4pm and 8pm on 0800 100 900.

Calls are free and the BBC has produced a booklet to guide parents as well as pupils. Mr Peel said a large number of callers were parents, although

children were keen to get "a second opinion", independent of their parents' views on the subject.

The advent of the National Curriculum, which will require all pupils to study 10 basic subjects up to the age of 16, would end the "nightmare" faced by children at the age of 14, when they had to select their GCSEs, he said.

"Under the present system the choices they make at 14 can influence the rest of their lives. Anything that eases that kind of pressure has to be welcome."

Many primary school children are so physically inactive they may be at risk of

a heart attack in later life, the Health Education Authority said yesterday.

Launching the Happy Heart project to encourage physical activity, the authority said a survey of more than 1,000 children found more than half took no vigorous physical exercise at all.

Almost a quarter of free time was spent watching television and most physical education lessons were useless for building cardiovascular fitness. None of the children surveyed had maintained a heart rate of 140 for a 10-minute period and almost a quarter of all PE lessons were spent standing still or sitting.

MPs say teaching council would raise morale in staffroom

By Douglas Broom
and Sheila Ginn

The Government is to come under pressure from its own backbenchers to set up a General Teaching Council to raise the status of teachers.

The much delayed report of the Conservative-dominated education select committee's inquiry into teacher supply will call for a council as part of an action plan to increase morale in the staffroom.

It will also contain implicit criticism of the Government's attempts to recruit non-graduate teachers through its licensed teacher on-the-job training scheme.

The report has been extensively re-written in the wake of leaks last July which infuriated Conservative members of the committee by suggesting that the report would be highly critical of the Government.

Nevertheless, the call for a teachers' professional body, similar to the General Medical Council, is likely to be fiercely resisted by ministers because it would mean them relinquishing the right to award qualified teacher status.

The power to decide who can teach in state schools has been jealously guarded by successive governments and its surrender has proved a stumbling block to previous GTC plans.

However the committee's report, likely to be published in the next few weeks, will carry greater weight because its new chairman, Mr Malcolm Thornton, MP for Crosby, has secured unanimous agreement for its conclusions.

The call for a general teaching council follows outline agreement by 14 educational bodies, including the six

Parents in Scotland feel that school standards of discipline are deteriorating and favour the Government's policy of appraising teachers' performance. The findings are included in a Scottish Office report, *Talking about Schools - Teachers and Headteachers*, based on the views of 3,351 parents throughout the country. It found 92 per cent were in favour of a formal system of teacher appraisal, and felt that such checks should be routine. Parents held strong views on what they believed made good and poor teachers. Good teachers could motivate and relate to children, organize, maintain discipline, and develop a good relationship with parents. Poor teachers were seen as intimidating, disorganized and stale, with no rapport with children or parents.

teachers' unions, on the need for such a body, although they are far from unanimous on the shape it should take.

The report will also emphasize the need to maintain a highly professional graduate teaching force and will urge the Government to reject calls to allow under-qualified people into teaching.

Final agreement on the report follows appeals by Mr Thornton to the committee's MPs to work together and put an end to ideological infighting.

Difficulties with the year-long inquiry on the supply of teachers for the 1990s contributed to the sudden resignation of Mr Timothy Raison, Conservative MP for Aylesbury, as chairman.

The committee meeting to agree the final report also took into account the report of Her Majesty's School Inspectors

last week which concluded that one in three schoolchildren are "getting a raw deal" from the state system.

While trying to avoid the more politically emotive issues, the report concentrates on the needs of the 7,560,000 children who, it is estimated, will be attending state schools by 2000.

It will warn Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, that the true extent of the problem is being masked by "hidden shortages". A Department of Education and Science survey in 1984 found that 25 per cent of all specialized tuition was carried out by teachers with no qualifications in that subject.

The committee concluded that the shortages were far worse because of the demands of the National Curriculum and is expected to accuse the department of complacency.

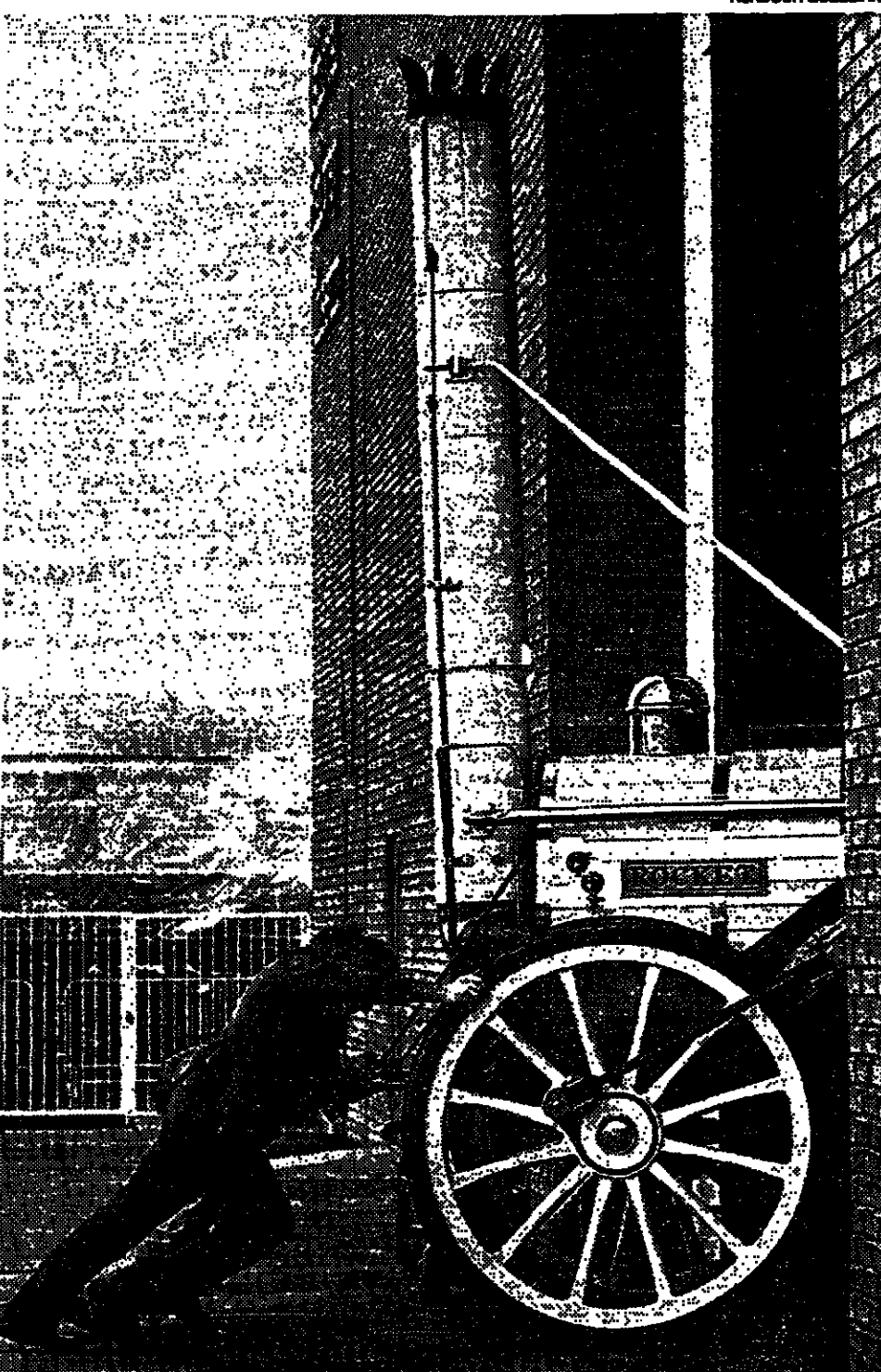
The Department of Education told the committee there are likely to be a shortage of 1,000 maths teachers out of a total demand for 20,000; a 6,000 technology teachers out of 22,000 wanted; 2,500 modern language teachers out of 19,000 wanted; and a shortage of 2,000 music teachers out of 7,000 wanted.

The department added: "In the secondary sector we estimate that supply will broadly match demand in aggregate at 184,000 in secondary schools compared to 200,000 now, the fall reflecting the continuing fall in the secondary school population."

The committee is sceptical about the Government's remedy for teacher shortages - the licensed teacher scheme which will allow in people over 26 without classroom training but proven experience in other professions.

Rocket men get up steam

ASADOUR GUZELIAN



A working replica, built in 1979, of Stephenson's Rocket, being taken from the National Railway Museum, York, across the road to the old York goods station where it will be demonstrated in steam at the museum's "Great Railway Show" exhibition next month.

Tory stronghold joins opposition to poll tax cost

By Ray Clancy

Opposition to the community charge in England and Wales is emerging from a broad spectrum of councils, including Conservative strongholds formerly proud of their reputation for charging low rates.

A month before final figures for all councils have to be agreed, it is clear that in most areas the community charge is going to be much higher than government estimates.

Residents of Windsor and Maidenhead, Berkshire, who held a 2,000-strong anti-poll tax rally at the weekend, have been besieged by calls from throughout Britain for advice on how to organize protests.

The campaign in Berkshire, where rates have not been increased from an annual average of £550 for 15 years, gathered strength quickly after it was learnt that the charge would be £500 a head instead of the government recommended amount of £301.

Mrs Olive Dancer, a committee member of the Maidenhead Against Poll Tax pressure group, which has gathered more than 7,000 signatures on a petition, said: "People are angry, frustrated and frightened. In the past three weeks, we have had calls from all over the country asking how to set up protest groups."

She and her husband, a draughtsman, who paid rates of £500, face a poll tax bill of more than £1,000, including 20 per cent for their daughter, a student.

Mr Vernon Harris, assistant borough treasurer for Windsor and Maidenhead council, said: "We are being punished because we need to spend more than the Government thinks we ought to. We are determined not to cut services to keep the poll tax low."

Mr Harris said he believed

the basic idea of sharing the cost of council services was good but criticized the method of introducing the poll tax, especially the safety net and the way the business rate will be paid into a central fund and redistributed. "We have to pay £58 per head into the safety net. This is unfair. It means people in the North or other parts of the country are benefiting from money paid by our residents," he said.

Wolverhampton council announced last night that its poll tax would be £420 a head, £151 more than the recommended £269 set by the Government. Mr Norman Davies, leader of the Labour-controlled council, said big cuts in services would be needed to reduce the tax.

He said: "The Government figure would mean cuts of £28 million. We have no choice but to collect it in order to run our services. To neglect it would mean that we would put people at risk and we would not be doing our duty."

He said that if the government estimate was adhered to, nursery and adult education and home help services would be cut. A quarter of homes for children, the elderly and handicapped would have to close. About 600 jobs in teaching and 70 in social services would be cut, along with a 40 per cent cut in street sweeping, highway maintenance and refuse collection.

In many other areas, district councils are expected to set a much higher poll tax than recommended. In Manchester, the average poll tax could be as high as £733, compared with a government target of £314. In Surrey, the average district poll tax is likely to be between £30 and £120 above government estimates.

Black constable 'determined to end racism'

A black police constable who has taken complaints of racial abuse by colleagues to an industrial tribunal yesterday said he was determined to stamp out racism at his station and protect black colleagues.

Constable William Halliday claims Inspector Ian Thirkell, who once guarded the Princess Royal, taunted him with racial jibes such as "nigger" and "coon". He had never apologized. Other white officers at Orpington police station in Kent similarly abused him, the Ashford tribunal was told.

PC Halliday, aged 30, said: "Racism was frequent on that relief. It was not something I had to deal with before - not to that degree." He was determined to stamp it out and had taken his complaint to Mr Terence Sigs, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for

the Metropolitan Police. "I asked for an apology at all stages of the grievance procedure and that was just ignored." He had left a previous relief after enduring racial abuse from another inspector.

"Mr Sigs asked if I would drop the action if I was transferred and I made it quite clear to him that that was not the case," PC Halliday said.

He added: "In the past I had moved relief, if I keep moving police stations and I come across similar problems, what then can I do about it?"

He said Mr Sigs could not offer a way of dealing with the matter. PC Halliday denied feeling bitter towards white officers when he had to go to court accused of causing a prisoner actual bodily harm. He was acquitted in June 1985 when the prisoner said in a

statement that it was a white officer who carried out the assault.

He said: "I accept except my own folly for not reporting the white officer at the time."

He added that police work

● Humour between colleagues and myself could be earthy ●

was "a job I thoroughly enjoy".

"I have a tremendous respect for the men in it, they would give their lives for it. I'm proud to be part of it." However his frustration at an apparent lack of action to investigate his allegations became much to bear so he began the current civil action.

He said: "Nothing happened at the end of the police

inquiry. Racial abuse from Mr Thirkell stopped on March 17, 1989, but was continued by other members on the relief."

Cross-examined by Mr Daniel Janner, PC Halliday agreed he allowed himself to be called "Bill the Spook". The constable said: "Humour between colleagues and myself could be quite earthy."

He denied an accusation that he made obscene sexual suggestions to two women police constables. However he did admit asking another WPC "to give him a flash of her stockings tops". She had done so, just as she had complied with a similar request by another constable earlier that day.

PC Halliday said: "Banter was stronger than on most reliefs." However he objected when constables and sergeants

used racist language in front of Mr Thirkell.

He said: "I've never known an inspector to participate in racial abuse of an officer. I don't think another inspector would have permitted it."

Mr Thirkell guarded the Princess Royal for four years during 10 years' service with the Royal Protection Squad. He denies an accusation of racial discrimination against PC Halliday.

PC Halliday said Mr Thirkell's participation in the abuse stopped after Inspector James Blacker from Scotland Yard's Equal Opportunities Unit became involved.

However he added: "As far as other members of the relief were concerned the abuse carried on."

The hearing continues today.

Religious broadcasts

MPs and peers to seek IBA advice

By John Lewis

Conservative MPs and peers to become the Independent Television Commission, responsible for awarding the new franchises in 1993.

Mr Mellor has also indicated that he is ready to look sympathetically at allowing



Mr Corbett: Bill must reflect multi-cultural society.

Mr Robin Corbett, Labour's shadow minister for broadcasting, also opposes a "Christian" formula: "We live in a multi-cultural society and the Bill has to reflect that."

Mr Bill Cash, a member of the broadcasting committee who has doubts about the "religious" formula, said last night: "Britain has always been a country of religious tolerance. But religion does have a special place in the country and in our desire to show tolerance we must not undermine our own religion."

Mr David Mellor, the minister responsible for broadcasting, is waiting for the churches to respond.

Backbenchers and peers, led by Lord Orr-Ewing, are now to seek a compromise through discussion with the IBA, later

Naming of suspect acceptable

Newspapers which named the killer of Mrs Marie Wilks, the pregnant M50 murder victim, before he was charged were within their rights, the Press Council ruled yesterday.

Complaints were made against five newspapers which published the name of Eddie Browning after his arrest but before he was charged in connection with Mrs Wilks' murder. The council found it was "within the discretion of editors" to publish Browning's details because of the "peculiarly public" nature of the case.

Body puzzle

Police investigating the murder of an unidentified baby boy whose body was found on a rubbish tip in Milton, Cumbria, in December, have checked on the welfare of 10,000 infants.

Bomb attacks

The Army defused incendiary devices placed by the Welsh nationalist Sons of Glendower at the offices of the house builders Barratt's at Chester and behind an English-owned village shop at Rhostryfan, near Caernarvon.

Player bailed

Lee Chapman, a Leeds United footballer, was bailed to appear before Derby magistrates on March 29 charged with demanding money with menaces after he allegedly threatened his former agent in a dispute over a transfer.

Lucky 13

Thirteen couples will have a Valentine's Day wedding at Gretna Green today. Forty more applications were turned down by the registrar.

Nigel Lawson's son gets father's old job as editor

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Mr Dominic Lawson is to follow in the footsteps of his father, Mr Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, and edit *The Spectator* magazine.

His appointment was confirmed yesterday as Mr Charles Moore announced he will be stepping down in April after six years as editor, during which time the magazine's circulation doubled to 37,000 and advertising revenue increased tenfold.

Mr Lawson, aged 33, a former journalist on the *Financial Times*, has been deputy editor of *The Spectator* since 1987. Although his career is similar to that of his father - who was

also a *Financial Times* journalist - Mr Lawson said yesterday that he had no wish to enter politics.

"If your father is a politician and you see what is involved you realize it is not as glamorous a profession as people, whose parents had a more mundane job, think," he said.

In his spare time, Mr Lawson is a fast bowler on the cricket field but he does not intend to deliver unexpected bouncers in his new job. Instead, he is likely to rely on the qualities needed for his other hobby, chess, at which he represented Oxford University.

He intends to follow the example set by his two predecessors, Mr Moore and Mr Alexander Chancellor, and rely on good writers for the magazine.

"That has made *The Spectator* successful," he said. "We never run a badly written piece, no matter who the writer is. We had an article from a Cabinet minister and returned it because it was not good enough."

Although, like Mr Moore, he is politically right-of-centre, Mr Lawson has a distinctly different character and personality. He was born in London, educated at Westminster School and has none of the fogeyish trappings of Mr Moore, who went to Eton. He is strong-willed, at times combative, and does not suffer fools gladly.

Mr Moore, also aged 33, said that he decided last November to vacate the editor's chair. "I had done the job for six years and that's long enough. I

didn't want to outstay my welcome. I also wanted Dominic to succeed me. I appointed him deputy editor with that in mind and I didn't want him to wait around any more. People kept offering him highly paid jobs and I wanted to make sure he got the editor's job."

Although Mr Moore and Mr Conrad Black, owner of the magazine and proprietor of *The Daily Telegraph*, have engaged recently in acerbic debate in the magazine's columns, he denied suggestions that this played any part in his decision to step down.

He plans to write a book during a six-month sabbatical before returning to *The Daily Telegraph*, where he used to be a leader writer, in a role yet to be agreed.

MP wants Bill to outlaw 'electronic picketing'

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent



Miss Nicholson: "The Bill looks only at hacking."

Staff who attempt to gain entry to a company's computers during an industrial dispute could be committing an offence under provisions being planned for the government-backed Computer Misuse Bill, it was disclosed yesterday.

Miss Emma Nicholson, a sponsor of the Bill which is to go into the committee stage after the second reading last week, said she was preparing an amendment to outlaw so-called "electronic picketing" - a technique she fears may be used by disgruntled employees in disputes.

Miss Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, said existing

legislation and laws planned in the Computer Misuse Bill failed to address the damage that could be caused by striking employees with legitimate access.

"The Bill looks only at unauthorized access to computers, what is known as hacking. We must look at the intent and impact of authorized access, which is just not attacked in the Bill at all," Miss Nicholson said.

Under her amendment, employees vital to a firm would commit an offence if they refused to co-operate with management. Such a situation could occur if an employee responsible for coding information refused to decode the data.

She believes the Bill must be given

more teeth where there are direct attacks by authorized staff involved in an industrial dispute.

Other amendments cover police access to suspects' computers, electronic eavesdropping and a strengthening of existing laws covering the admissibility of computer evidence in court.

Miss Nicholson's move on electronic picketing is unlikely to win favour with Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romsey and Waterside, who introduced the Bill as a private member.

He believes the success of his proposed legislation, which mirrors a Law Commission report into the subject, lies in its simplicity.

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SOUTH AFRICA IN TRANSITION

Right accuses Mandela of 'treason'

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

The far-right Conservative Party has laid formal charges of treason against Mr Nelson Mandela for advocating an intensification of the "armed struggle" against the South African Government.

The documented charges were handed in at police headquarters in Cape Town by four Conservative Party members of Parliament as right-wing fury grew throughout the country against both Mr Mandela and the ruling National Party.

Dr Andries Treurnicht, the party's leader, angrily denounced Mr Mandela in the all-white House of Assembly before orchestrating a crescendo of hatred at a rowdy public meeting in an Afrikaner suburb of the city.

"Mandela does not promise moderation, but the intensification of the struggle," Dr Treurnicht said in Parliament. "His so-called non-racial election is an arrogant rejection of the Afrikaner Volk (people) and all other people. It spells the destruction of all the rights of our nation."

Later, at the meeting, Dr Treurnicht earned thunderous, foot-stamping applause when he told his supporters that the National Party no longer had the support of Afrikaners.

More than 3,000 people packed into the civic centre at Parow, on the outskirts of Cape Town, cheering and jeering as appropriate during a two-hour speech that was filled with venom.

The crowd roared that President de Klerk was a traitor and that Mr Mandela should be "wiped out"; and when Dr Treurnicht held up a National Party election pamphlet, they cried: "Burn it! Burn it!"

Referring to the unruly scenes after Mr Mandela's release, Dr Treurnicht said Mr de Klerk had allowed a communist flag to fly on a Sunday over "chaos and plundering".

The Government's actions amounted to an "orgy of capitulation". In Lusaka, Mr Joe Slovo, the leader of the South African Communist Party, said the African National Congress was prepared to defend itself against right-wing extremists, although it should be the duty of the security forces to protect its supporters from violence.

At least 50 people have been killed, scores injured and hundreds of homes destroyed in black townships and villages in the province of Natal in a savage eruption of violence after the release of Mr Mandela (Ray Kennedy writes).

Police said that "all hell" had broken loose. Most of the violence continues to be between the rival Zulu factions of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha movement and the United Democratic Front, which is affiliated to the ANC. But signs of a race war were developing yesterday as mobs of blacks attacked Indians and their property.

Mr Roy Ainslie, the co-ordinator of the liberal Democratic Party's unrest monitoring group, said the violence was spreading into Indian areas near Durban, particularly at Phoenix and Isipingo, where "an anti-Indian flavour has shown itself over the past four days".

In the past 3½ years more than 3,500 people have been killed in Natal in a war for the political upper hand between Inkatha and the radical UDF, but the situation now seems worse than ever.

Police said they had been overwhelmed by reports of murder and arson and the destruction of property throughout the province.

On the Indian Ocean coast near Hibberdene, 120 homes have been destroyed, 90 at Richmond Farm and 40 at Kwamashu, both near Durban. Thousands of refugees were fleeing the worst-hit areas.

Mr Ainslie said some of those killed and injured were shot by police "trying to bring about law and order". There were also reports that troops had stood by and watched the fighting without attempting to intervene, he said.

The outbreak of violence has been linked by official sources to the "raised political temperature" created by Mr Mandela's release and his statement that the ANC's "armed struggle" was to continue.

Most of the victims of black-on-black violence in Natal have been stabbed, clubbed or stoned, but police said that, in a "worrying escalation", 13 people killed at Mpumalanga, between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, the capital, died of gunshot wounds.

The situation was also reported to be explosive in the eastern Cape township of Kwanobuhle outside Uitenhage, where two black men were stabbed to death in a fight between rival groups.

Police fired rubber bullets, birdshot and tear gas to break up crowds.

Excerpts from Mr Mandela's speech in Soweto yesterday, as distributed by the South African Press Association:

"It is discipline and loyalty that will liberate us, and I have not the slightest doubt that you are capable of behaving like people who are ready to make a contribution to the solution of the problems that are facing us, and also to address the new society we wish to establish."

"Today I also return with a deep sadness, sadness to learn that you are still suffering under an inhuman system. The housing shortage, the schools crisis, the unemployment. I am even more proud to be a member of this community because of the struggle for the democratization of this community."

"As long as I am part of the Soweto community, I have been greatly shocked by the statistics of crime. I must make it clear that the level of crime in our country must be eliminated ... The crisis in education that afflicts us demands special attention. The education crisis in black schools is a political crisis. It arises out of the fact that our people have no vote."

"Education is an area that needs attention from all our people, students, parents, teachers, workers and all other organized sectors of our community."

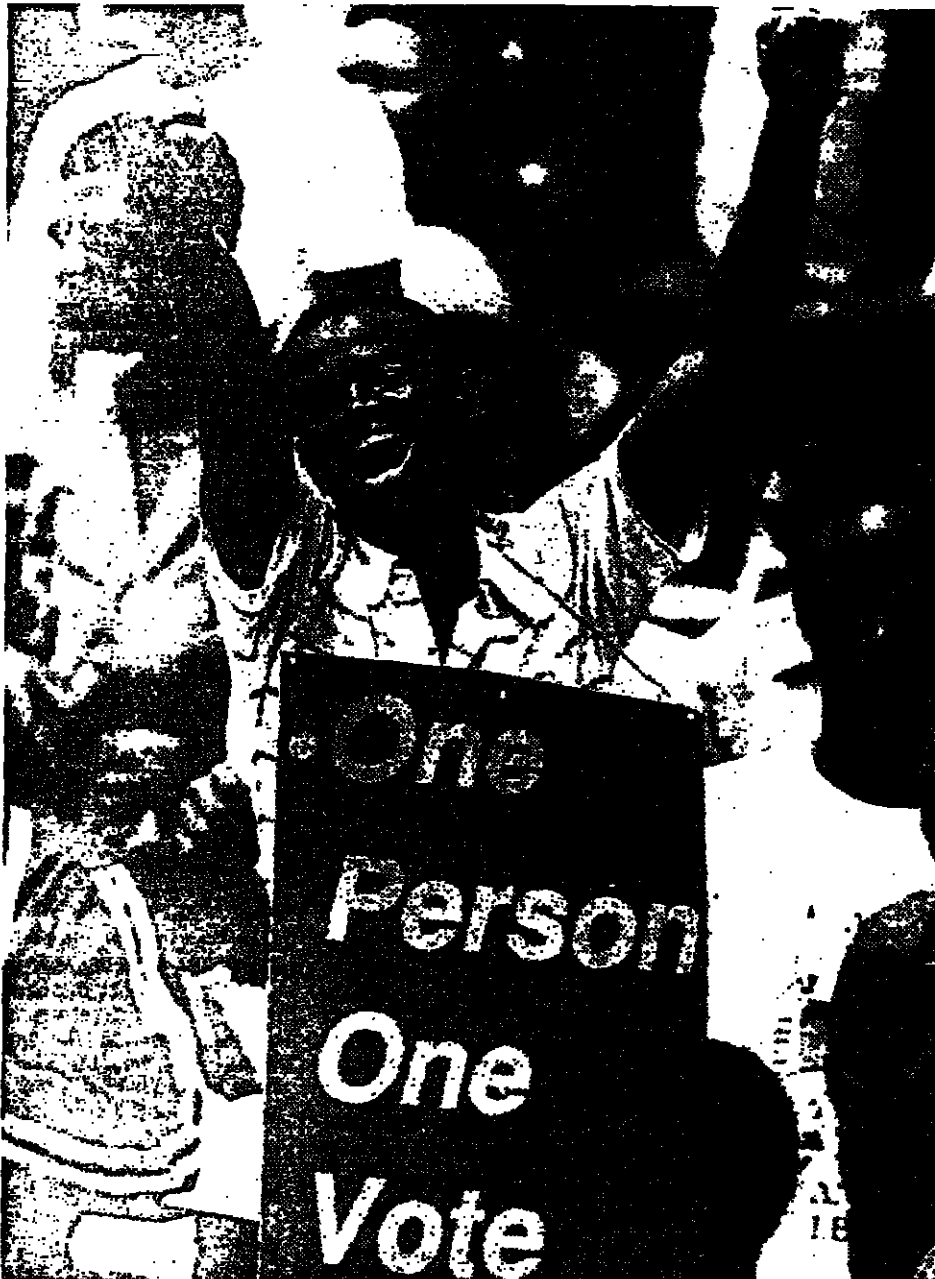
"It is the policy of the ANC that the entire educational system is a site of struggle. All students must return to school and learn."

"Our victory must be celebrated in peace and joy. I call on our people to take decisive action to end the mindless violence."

"I am also concerned by the ongoing violence perpetrated by certain sections of the security forces against peaceful marches and demonstrations. I condemn this."

"No man or woman who has abandoned apartheid will be excluded from our movement towards a non-racial, united and democratic South Africa based on one person, one vote, on a common voters' role."

"Our struggle against apartheid must be consolidated on all fronts. Let each one of you and all of the people give the enemies of liberty no space to take us back to the dark hell of apartheid ... Only disciplined mass action assures us of the victory we seek."



An ANC supporter in the crowd of 120,000 addressed by Mr Mandela in Soweto yesterday.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Bhutto calls for talks on Kashmir

Islamabad — India and Pakistan are making significant changes in troop deployments as the Kashmir crisis continues to escalate on both sides of the 1948 ceasefire line (Christopher Thomas writes). The contingency movements fall far short of war preparations, but demonstrate a growing nervousness that official attempts to "talk down" the conflict are failing to cool emotions.

Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister, said yesterday: "We don't want a war. We will take whatever steps we can do to avoid a conflict." In an interview with Agence France-Presse, the first since the birth of her second child on January 25, she said Pakistan would welcome third-country mediation in defusing the border tension. She suggested that the problems would not be solved until a plebiscite — called for by the UN in 1949 — had been held, and offered to begin a dialogue with India on this and other issues.

Swedish compromise

Stockholm — By dropping its controversial proposal to ban strikes for two years, Sweden's Social Democratic Government may now survive a vote in Parliament tomorrow on a deflationary package that is the most severe in the country's post-war history (Christopher Mosey writes). The ban will be replaced by provisions for compulsory arbitration in labour market disputes. However, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Prime Minister, said that he was keeping all the other measures in the package, including a two-year wage freeze. The communists, traditional government supporters, have said that they will not accept the compromise but the Greens, who opposed the ban, have indicated they will.

Madrid sues paper

Madrid — Unnerved by mounting revelations of corruption, Señor Felipe González's Socialist Government decided yesterday to bring libel charges against the Madrid daily, *Mundo*, which uncovered allegedly scandalous private business deals by Señor Juan Guerra, the Deputy Prime Minister's brother, from an office provided at the taxpayers' expense (Harry Debelius writes). Señor Leopoldo Torres, the Chief Prosecutor, said yesterday one count was based on an implication in the paper that a Cabinet member had revealed information about Cabinet discussions, which ministers are forbidden to do by law, and the other was based on the newspaper's implication of possibly illegal dealings by members of the Government.

Canada poll triumph

Ottawa — Canada's New Democratic Party has won a House of Commons seat in French-speaking Quebec province for the first time (John Best writes). Mr Phil Edmonstone, the party's candidate and a nationally known former consumer advocate, coasted to an easy victory in a by-election in the Chambly constituency south-east of Montreal on Monday, polling 26,997 votes to the 6,966 for Mr Clifford Lincoln, the Liberal Party candidate, and the 3,910 for Mr Serge Begin, who ran for the ruling Conservative Party. The by-election was the first in Canada since the 1988 federal vote was won by the Tories in a landslide.

Hamburger challenge

Castres, France (Renter) — France struck back at the American invader yesterday with the "Tarnette", a gourmet version of the hamburger. The inventors, restaurateurs Gerard and Christiane Sogno, say it is made of ground duck meat, pâte de foie gras, minced mushrooms and a slice of truffle, served with honey vinegar and french fries.

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Soviet leaders ditch the dogmatic party line

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Communist Party is abandoning such fundamental concepts as the dictatorship of the proletariat and its guaranteed leading role in society in its quest to retain power.

Even the hallowed organizational principle of democratic centralism is to be reconsidered as the only way to "prevent the formation of factions" in the party.

The party has also opened the way for the country to have an executive President, who will not only — as now — chair the Supreme Soviet and represent the country abroad, but also initiate legislation and take responsibility for seeing it implemented.

The new face of Soviet communism was revealed yesterday with the publication — after a six-day delay — of the party's draft platform, the policy document on which its candidates will fight the coming local elections and enter the party congress in early summer. The platform, called "Towards Humane, Democratic Socialism", still has to be approved by the full congress, but it is standard practice for such Central Committee documents to be passed with few emendations.

The platform was agreed during fierce discussions at last week's Central Committee plenum, but may have been subject to editorial revision in the meantime.

It appeared in print only hours after an announcement that the two-thirds directly elected Congress of People's Deputies was to be recalled in special session to consider the proposal for an executive

presidency. The platform marks a watershed in the way the leadership regards the role and image of the Soviet Communist Party.

It has renounced the interpretation of history which saw the victory of communism as pre-ordained; it has abandoned the concept of class struggle and the dictatorship of the working class; and it allows non-Communist parties to compete for power.

The platform also removes ideological impediments to private ownership of businesses and property, though the question of land ownership is left unclear.

While these concessions to political and economic pluralism represent a sharp departure from much of what the party has stood for, they do not guarantee significant change in the way the party functions. Its entrenched power in all Soviet institutions means that it may not slip the chains of its monopoly on power so gracefully.

The draft platform also contains evidence to support the criticism made, among others, by the radical Mr Boris Yeltsin, that the platform was written by one right and one left hand. The term "plan-market economy" obscures the frontier between central planning and the market and will try to combine the "powerful stimuli of personal and collective interest".

There is forthright condemnation of privileges for party officials — but only "undeserved" privileges. Non-Communist parties will be permitted, but only parties that pursue "constitutional



Soviet Interior Ministry troops marching through Dushanbe in the central Asian republic of Tajikistan yesterday, where ethnic rioting has left dozens dead.

aims". Only one point was sensitive enough to warrant a quotation from the works of Lenin to support it.

This concerned the desirability of separating the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the state, something described as "fundamentally important to the

government's efficiency". It went on: "In Lenin's words, we should combine the advantages of the Soviet system with the advantages of parliamentarism."

This separation of powers is perhaps the key transitional phase from a one-party dictatorship to the begin-

nings of a parliamentary democracy — from the battle formations and siege mentality bequeathed by the Bolsheviks to what Mr Gorbachev himself has described as "a normal state".

The quotation from Lenin suggests that it was the most contentious idea in the draft

platform. The establishment of an executive presidency would, in theory, allow the party and the state to operate independently and spell the beginning of the end of the party's real power.

It may be for this reason that the Congress of People's Deputies is to be specially

convened to approve the measure, even before the conceptual change has been sanctioned, as it must be, by the party congress.

Assuming that approval is given in the next few weeks, the party congress will be presented with a fait accompli when it meets in June.

Moscow moves towards 'humane, democratic socialism'

Extracts from the draft platform of the Soviet Communist Party, entitled "Towards Humane, Democratic Socialism".

On perestroika: There is no sensible alternative to perestroika. This is a hard and dramatic — but correct — path towards securing people a worthy life and tapping the potential of our great country. It is necessary to follow this path with courage and consistency, countering the forces which would like to throw our society back or push it towards civil confrontation.

On abandoning dogmatism: While reaffirming faithfulness to the creative spirit of the materialist world outlook and the dialectic methodology of Marx, Engels and Lenin and being guided by it, we resolutely reject ideological blinkers, dogmatism and intolerance towards different views and ideas. While adhering to the positions of the working class and all working people, we abandon the simplified class approach which opposes national and universal human values.

On the role of the state: We denounce total state hegemony in public life and everything that engendered arbitrariness and lawlessness, unpunishable abuses of power and undeserved privileges. We denounce a primitive

view of socialist ownership, disregard for commodity-money relations and all forms and methods of administration and management that entail man's alienation, prevent him from making use of his abilities and endowments.

On the past: The Soviet Communist Party deems it fundamentally important to distinguish everything in our past that was engendered by Stalinism and by violations of socialist principles from what constitutes the party's and people's concrete contribution to their country and to all mankind. It is equally dangerous to idealize the past and to refuse to learn the complete and grim truth about tragic aspects of our history, as to try to obliterate everything that is really great and valuable in our historical legacy.

On continuity: Inimitable for us is our socialist option and our adherence to the ideas of October — all power to the soviets, factories to the workers, land to the peasants, peace to the peoples and free self-determination to the nations.

On privacy: The party will uphold reliable legislative protection of a

citizen's personality and honour, the immunity of his home and property, the freedom of correspondence and telephone conversations.

On freedom of conscience: The party will uphold man's free self-determination in the spiritual sphere, the freedom of conscience and religion... the party will step up the dialogue between atheists and believers and pursue a policy that offers all churches the opportunity to operate freely within the law.

On privileges: The party opposes all illegitimate privileges and benefits and advocates full openness on this issue... abuses of office must be eradicated.

On farms and food: The availability of foodstuffs to the population remains the most acute problem. The party advocates the priority development of the agrarian sector...

The solution of the food problem should rest on the development of all forms of economic management in agriculture, state-run, co-operative and individual farms and diverse forms of management, based on contract, leasing and other principles should be given equal possibilities.

On the economy: The party be-

lieves that the solution of current and future socio-economic problems is inseparably linked with the radical economic reform.

The reform must replace the command-administrative system... with a plan-market economy based on a diversity of property forms, competition between independent manufacturers, a developed finance system and on the powerful stimuli of personal and collective interest.

On property ownership: The party advocates the diversity of its forms. Their equal and sound competition is the economic basis of civil freedoms, of the freedom to choose the form and method in which a worker will work and the guarantee of consumers' interests and rights.

On prices: The restructuring of the price formation is a *sine qua non* for the market to start regulating the economy. Artificial price levels and proportions, the burden of ineffective subsidies for some and ruinous deductions from others provide false reference points for economic management... Competition between product manufacturers, including foreign firms, must become an important factor regulating and restraining the growth of prices.

On people power: The party's

policy proceeds from the recognition of the sovereign will of the people as the only source of power. On elections: The electoral system should be brought into line with the principles of universal, equal, direct suffrage.

On parties: The democratization of our society is accompanied by the emergence of new socio-political associations... The procedure for their formation will be established by law and reflected in the Constitution of the Soviet Union.

The formation and activity of organizations and movements that expound violence and inter-ethnic strife and that pursue extremist, unconstitutional aims should be prohibited by law.

On monopoly of power: The Soviet Communist Party does not claim a monopoly and is prepared for a political dialogue and co-operation with everyone who favours the renewal of socialist society.

On the state structure: The party holds that the separation of legislative, executive and judiciary powers is fundamentally important to the government's efficiency...

On the post of President: A President is needed to maintain the country's stable development, to speed up perestroika, to guarantee its irreversibility, to ensure the

normal and effective functioning of all state and public institutions in the process of democratization, to ensure law and citizens' security, to protect the Soviet Union's interests and to represent our state on the international arena.

On the police and KGB: Interior and state security bodies should operate strictly within the law and under the control of elective government bodies.

On the centre and the republics: The real sovereignty of the republics is impossible without their economic independence...

On the new-style party: The Soviet Communist Party will conduct its policy and work to preserve its status as a ruling party in the framework of a democratic process. It will seek to... receive the people's mandate to form leading bodies in the centre, republics and the provinces...

The party does not assume state powers. Its role is to be a democratically recognized political leader...

On democratic centralism: There is a need to rethink the principle of democratic centralism. It should no longer be treated in such a way that it can be used to implement a top-down, hierarchical discipline...

German reunification

British view dismays Euro-MPs

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

German members of the European Parliament are to consider calling for the suspension of the Conservative Party from the European Democratic Union, which links parties of the centre-right, in retaliation for Mrs Thatcher's attitude to the reunification of Germany.

Herr Ingo Friedrich, a European People's Party (Christian Democrat) member of the Parliament, has raised the question with the support of other members of his party.

Herr Friedrich said last night that although he was a convinced Thatcherite who frequently paid tribute to the Prime Minister in his speeches, he was deeply unhappy about her attitude as widely reported in Germany.

Contrasting Mrs Thatcher's stand with the expressed approval of President Gorbachev and President Mitterrand of France for progress on reunification, Herr Friedrich

said: "I am really unhappy with her attitude."

Supporting him, Herr Otto Habsburg, the president of the International Pan-European Union and a fellow Christian Democrat, described Mrs Thatcher's words on reunification as "treason against her friends", adding: "She has hurt us plenty. It has taken a lot of goodwill away from our British friends."

Mrs Thatcher said at the Young Conservative conference in Torquay last Saturday: "We agreed (at Helsinki) that no boundaries would be changed except by agreement. If any are to be changed this would require massive consultation. All the changes in Germany must be done in conjunction with the other obligations for which we are all signed up." This was taken by the German press as a denial of the right of German self-determination.

It was not expected last

night that the German MEPs would go ahead with submitting a formal motion calling for the suspension of the Conservative Party from the centre-right alliance, but there will clearly be objections to the Prime Minister's words at its next meeting.

● STRASBOURG: Growing fears that German reunifica-

tion may rock the foundations of the European Community have prompted M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, to call for a crisis summit of EC leaders to be convened a few weeks after the East German elections on March 18 (Peter Guilford writes).

"An exceptional meeting of heads of government and state", he told the European Parliament yesterday, must meet "to reaffirm the strengthening of the Community of 12". Without such an initiative, the Community could lose its potential role as a "magnet for finding a solution to the German question".

Ireland, which currently holds the presidency of the EC, apparently has similar plans to call a summit on Germany, and Irish sources here are scarcely concealing their dismay that M Delors should have taken the wind out of Dublin's sails.



M Delors: Seeking crisis meeting of EC leaders.

Havel eases troops pull-out deadline

From Peter Green, Prague

President Havel of Czechoslovakia revealed yesterday that Prague has backed down on its demands that the Soviet Union withdraw all its 73,500 troops from the country before the end of 1990, giving the Russians until some time in 1991, apparently out of fear of weakening the position of President Gorbachev.

Mr Havel suggested that a personal letter he received on Sunday from Mr Gorbachev

had convinced the Czechoslovaks not to push the Soviet Union too hard.

"Since receiving Mr Gorbachev's letter, I realized that the situation was complicated by aspects which I personally did not understand until now," Mr Havel said.

These included "considerable internal political problems in the Soviet Union" as well as the technical difficulties of safely moving large quantities of equipment and munitions. Czechoslovakia

and the Soviet Union have agreed not to release the text of the letter.

Mr Lubos Dobrovsky, the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the first Soviet troops were expected to pull out by the end of February.

But he said technical discussions between the two sides were continuing, and that a date would be set for a further round of talks by the end of the week.

He said a final date would

be reached in such a way that the original deadline would not be exceeded by too long.

According to well-placed government sources, Czechoslovakia still hopes to have an agreement ready for signing when Mr Havel visits Moscow on February 26.

The Soviet Union had balked at Czechoslovak demands for an early withdrawal, saying it lacked sufficient housing and schools to repatriate the Soviet troops and their families.

London bids for new development bank

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

A bid to have a new European bank for reconstruction and development sited in London was announced yesterday by Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

The new bank would play a role in galvanizing the Western private sector to help the development of a new private sector in Eastern Europe, said

Mr Maude. London was Europe's largest banking centre and the host to more than 50 European banks than any other West European city. It was also the home of the biggest Euro-bond market for primary issues and secondary trading, and was the leading equity and foreign exchange market in Europe.

The West Germans, French and the Danes have already expressed their interest. The

idea of a European bank for reconstruction and development was first mooted at the emergency European summit in Paris in November.

No European government had done more to assist economic and political reform in Eastern Europe, said Mr Maude. Britain had been the first to announce practical assistance schemes in the form of the "know-how" funds for Poland and Hungary. Last

autumn the Government offered concrete ideas on a long-term relationship between the Community and Eastern Europe, suggesting individually targeted association arrangements — an approach now adopted by the EC.

The Government sees the concept of the development bank as being in keeping with its own ideas of promoting private-sector development in Eastern Europe.

Deferential opposition causes no headaches for Mongolia's party

From Catherine Sampson, Ulan Bator

The earnest young man declares: "There have been many deviations on the path to true socialism... we want real socialism." Mr Zorig, dressed in a conservative grey suit with waistcoat and fingering a pocket watch, could be mistaken for a spokesman from the reform-minded Mongolian Revolutionary Party. He leads the Mongolian People's Republic's fledgling opposition, which inspired 5,000 people to demonstrate for three hours in sub-zero temperatures outside the Lenin Museum in Ulan Bator on Sunday.

Aged 27, Mr Zorig is the best-known non-Communist party politician in perhaps the world's most isolated country — the second oldest communist state, with a population of two million people and 24 million livestock. On Sunday his Mongolian Democratic Union will hold

a congress to establish itself as an official opposition party with a policy platform. But some observers wonder what exactly the opposition opposes.

Mr Zorig — Mongolians traditionally use a single name — is proof that the opposition is lacking in fervour and charisma, and diplomats in the somewhat desolate capital suggest that the MDU is demanding little more than the communist party is offering. Five thousand protesters among a population of half a million in Ulan Bator may not be a bad turnout, but in a city with no decent restaurants and very little nightlife a chilly demonstration counts as entertainment.

This is no Asian Romania: the citizens here have more to lose. Mongolia has no Nicolae Ceausescu any more — Mr Tsedenbal was deposed in 1984 — and living standards are higher than in China. Nomadic herdsmen are con-

cerned more with how many livestock they are allowed to own privately (at the moment, they raise animals primarily for the state) rather than democratic niceties. With a degree in scientific socialism from a Moscow university

Moscow (Reuter) — The Central Committee of the Mongolian communist party and the country's Parliament will meet next month to discuss electoral reform, Mr Jambyn Batmunkh, the nation's leader, was quoted as saying yesterday. The report was carried by Tass, quoting *Unen*, a Mongolian paper.

versity, Mr Zorig can use only theoretical Marxist terminology. "We are still in the transitory stage, and have not yet started building true socialism. In this stage, the aim is to build a humanitarian democratic society," he says, his face unsmiling as he speaks. Economically,

Mr Zorig envisages a range of forms of ownership, but only if they do not involve "exploitation" — a term he uses in the Marxist manner. When it is said that this rules out private business, he becomes confused and says he knows little of Western theory.

The MDU is calling for a multi-party system but seems eager to co-operate with, rather than overthrow, the ruling party. In turn, the communists have said they will be delighted to work with the MDU and have not ruled out a multi-party system. Government officials chuckle in disbelief at the suggestion that they might choose to turn tanks and guns on their gentle dissidents. They simply do not perceive the MDU as a threat. As one Western diplomat observed: "I think they are actually rather pleased to be able to tell Moscow: 'Look, we have perestroika and glasnost too.' The party has even closed its privilege shops,

limited the number of private cars available to VIPs, and opened a special hospital and rest home to the public. It is now debating an election law which the MDU hopes would allow it to be voted into Parliament.

A second organization, the Socialist Democratic Movement, has appeared, seeming little more than a pressure group and accepting communist party members into its fold. Last month it was criticized by *Izvestia*, the Soviet government newspaper, and the Ulan Bator Government has told it not to clutter up the streets with bulletin boards.

But this was not a life-and-death struggle, and when the Socialist Democratic Movement threatened to hold a press conference unless the Government backed down, Ulan Bator gave in.

Mr Sukherdene, an international banker, aged 33, took the platform at an MDU rally last month and denounced

the Mongolian Revolutionary Party that his great-grandfather had founded. "Nowadays the party is not a popular party and its aims and actions have not been in line with the wishes of the people," he said.

While praising the MDU's role as a catalyst, he does not envisage joining another party. "After the communist party has reformed itself, then I will join," he says. After his appearance at the rally, Mr Sukherdene was horrified when London bankers telephoned him and asked: "How are you doing in this time of turmoil?"

It seemed to him that they had got the wrong idea: "Mongolians are very relaxed people... The revolutions which have come to the East European countries have been too frightening, too fast, too violent. We are a small community. I do not think that fathers would go with guns against their sons."

Non-stop protest as way of life

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

In driving rain yesterday there was a whiff of mutiny in the air as a crowd of more than 250 people, including disident Army and Air Force officers, staged a new type of protest in Victory Square in defiance of their commanders.

Their main demands were the sacking of the veteran Defence Minister, General Nicolae Militaru, pensioned off by Ceausescu and brought out of retirement by the ruling National Salvation Front, and of General Mihail Chitac, the unpopular Interior Minister, who many Romanians claim played a part in the shooting of demonstrators in Timisoara at the start of the revolution.

Other members of the armed forces who have been demonstrating this week include military engineers and ordinary soldiers at present working in the mines who are demanding an immediate improvement to their appalling work conditions.

Tomorrow Romanian filmmakers have announced they will be joining the assortment of protesters by beginning a hunger strike in the square in support of their demands, so far rejected, for the establishment of an independent cinematographers' union.

Mr Cristian Untea, the Front's chief spokesman, showed eyes glazed by fatigue and made a gesture of despair as the protesting horns of some 200 heavy vehicles parked higgledy-piggledy in front of his office, blared in unison.

Alongside the protesting drivers in Victory Square were also to be found hunger-striking students from the Military Academy, bearing a long list of demands, and hundreds of officials from the Tourism Ministry demanding the reinstatement of their Minister, Major Mihail Lupoi.

The deafening noise of the horns and the choking fumes from the revving engines may have been unusual, but in other respects it was a typical day in Bucharest where illegal protests against the interim Government are now a regular occurrence, reducing the nation to a state of near-anarchy.

Such is the frequency of protests that the once pleasant expanse of grass in front of the building has been churned into a sea of mud.

Elsewhere in the country this week alone, there have been strikes by soldiers, miners, dockers, medical students and Air Force officers to say nothing of crowds of upwards of 50,000 ethnic Hungarians on the streets of Transylvania's cities demanding separate Hungarian schools.

 VALVOLINE IS BACKED BY THE WORLDWIDE RESOURCES OF GENERAL MOTORS. FUEL CONSUMPTION DATA ARE AVERAGES OF DOT URBAN, 56MPH AND 75MPH FIGURES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING DETAILS OF THE VALVOLINE ASSISTANCE ACCIDENT AND BREAKDOWN RECOVERY SCHEME, CALL 0800 444 200.

Hong Kong police fire tear gas to halt refugee camp clash

From Jonathan Brande, Hong Kong

One hundred and fifty police in full riot gear stormed Hong Kong's biggest Vietnamese detention centre last night, firing tear gas to quell a pitched battle between rival gangs of boat people.

At least seven people were injured in more than two hours of fighting, as more than 300 Vietnamese at the Whitehead detention centre tore down compound fences to attack each other with home-made weapons.

A government spokesman blamed the fighting on traditional antagonisms, although she said it was not clear what had sparked the latest outbreak. However, radio reports here said the camp authorities had been warned earlier in the day that something was brewing but had taken no action.

Meanwhile, 44 Vietnamese boat people, who had earlier agreed to go home voluntarily, changed their minds and did not board a Hanoi-bound aircraft yesterday.

A government spokesman said 120 boat people had agreed to fly home on an aircraft chartered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, but only 76 of them, including five children, boarded the flight, bringing to about 1,170 the total number who have returned since a UN-monitored voluntary repatriation programme was set up last March.

Although there was speculation that their second thoughts were caused by fears of ill-treatment on their return to Vietnam, officials of the UNHCR said that there had been no slowing down in the numbers signing up for the

voluntary repatriation scheme. About 1,700 boat people are waiting to return under the voluntary scheme.

The agency's position has been that Hong Kong should first give the voluntary repatriation scheme a try before forcibly deporting refugees to Hanoi.

Hong Kong began repatriating economic migrants by force on December 12, when 51 Vietnamese boat people were flown back against their will in a pre-dawn operation that stirred up an international outcry. The exercise has not been repeated.

Hong Kong is now home to about 37,000 Vietnamese, of whom colonial officials estimate only 30 per cent are genuine asylum-seekers.

At the 21,000-inmate Whitehead centre, workers said tensions in the camp had been mounting for months, amid fears of renewed deportations.

With up to 40,000 arrivals expected this year once the sailing season starts in March, Hong Kong is bracing itself for renewed violence as the camps get more crowded.

Meanwhile, Mr Nguyen Tu, the former South Vietnamese war correspondent who flies to the United States today after his acceptance as a genuine political refugee, has spoken out once again against the screening procedures that gave him his freedom.

Claiming the Hong Kong Government was not interested in improving the procedures, he said he had been one of the lucky ones, who owed his asylum to his friends in the United States.

Amnesty International has condemned the screening pro-

gramme as "seriously flawed," and called on Hong Kong to give the boat people a fairer hearing.

● LONDON: Mr Angus Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, made it clear yesterday that Britain remained determined to restart the repatriation programme in July (Michael Knipe writes).

Mr Maude, who is to visit Vietnam next week with the hope of persuading the Hanoi Government to accept the repatriation of Vietnamese classified as economic refugees, said only the question of the date was in dispute.

He hoped that both Vietnam and the United States would come to see that the logic of Britain's case was unassailable. Something had to be done urgently to avoid jeopardizing the right of first asylum which was practised by Hong Kong, Malaysia and Thailand.

Britain's policy of enforcing the repatriation of economic refugees was all but accepted at an international conference last month, but Vietnam wanted the process to be postponed from July to October and the United States wanted it postponed until July 1991.

Questioned about the intimidation that accompanied the repatriation of the first refugees to be returned against their will, Mr Maude said compulsory repatriation was "not a pretty thing". It involved people being sent back to where they did not choose to go. There was no way of making it a pretty prospect, but it was going on every day all round the world.

Japanese campaigners have trouble finding a winning image

Backstabbers sharpen knives for inept Kaifu

From Joe Joseph
Saitama, Japan

At each stop on his campaign trail for next Sunday's general election, Mr Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese Prime Minister, is taunted by his own posters, which show him looking somewhat uncomfortable, cross-legged and trying to appear relaxed in an open-neck shirt, holding two young children in his arms; it is not a pose that comes naturally to a man who reputedly owns 600 polka-dot ties.

What Mr Kaifu's public relations advisers appear not to have anticipated is that traditional Japanese voters look with suspicion on any politician trying to make out that he is a normal human being.

As he shook hands with potential supporters and addressed long-faced crowds in this unfashionable dormitory region 50 miles north of Tokyo at the weekend, Mr Kaifu already had the defeated look of a man on his way out. Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats will probably retain power in the election but a successor for Mr Kaifu, who was always regarded as no more than a caretaker Prime Minister, is being freely discussed in the press.

If that does little for his confidence, the fact that many party stalwarts had to be bused in to fill out the crowds at his speaking stops across the Saitama prefecture probably did even less.

Mr Kaifu's Sunday afternoon began on a low note when he joined 120 plump and graying housewives in their exercise class at the Onuma Undo Garden Sports Centre; the ladies wore track suits, Mr Kaifu a black lounge suit, a grey - polka-dot - tie and an awkward smile. The glee on the cameramen's faces suggested that he should have stuck to kissing babies.

Mr Kaifu disappeared half an hour later outside Kasu-



Miss Takako Doi, leader of Japan's Socialist opposition, greeting crowds during an election rally in Nagasaki yesterday.

kabe railway station wearing a huge white rosette, the size normally seen on winning animals at an important agricultural show. He waved at the 3,000 or so who had come to hear him. Some waved back. He told them: "We are facing a call from the future. You have to decide which party has the best policies to face the call from the future."

The answer, he advised, was the Liberal Democratic Party, which would save Japan from socialist revolution. "When I met Lech Walesa (the Solidar-

ity leader) last month he told me he wanted Poland to become a second Japan," Mr Kaifu told the unimpressed crowd, adding that the unpopular new sales tax introduced last year was needed to meet the costs of caring for Japan's ageing population. Japanese women, he said, were producing only 1.66 babies each, fewer than was good for Japan's economic well-being.

An hour later he appeared before another soaking wet 2,000-strong crowd waiting in

front of Koshigaya's community centre. They got the same speech.

Mrs Suzuki, a housewife aged 60, said: "The LDP is what made Japan what it is today. If we have a socialist government things will be reversed." A man near by said he would vote for the party despite finding Mr Kaifu, although eloquent, "somewhat rather unimpressive. He does not stir passions. Look at the crowd around here."

Mr Kaifu smiles a lot but makes few jokes. The biggest

chuckle came when he apologized to those in the crowd behind the speaker's platform. "I am sorry that some of you have had to spend the whole time watching my back."

With Mr Shintaro Abe, an ambitious former Foreign Minister and party VIP, already plotting with powerful allies to topple Mr Kaifu from the Prime Minister's job as soon as decently possible, many in the crowd presumably thought that Mr Kaifu should be watching his own back.

Belgian bureaucrats bring about a cultural disaster

From Michael Blyden, Brussels

The case of the missing corpse has forced the rebuff of France's most celebrated revolutionary painter, scheduled for today, to be cancelled. The debacle has also left France's Minister of Culture outraged, Belgian officials embarrassed and cultural relations between the two countries glacial.

The body of Jacques Louis David, painter of stirring revolutionary scenes, was to have been ceremonially re-interred in the family vault in Paris today, 165 years after he was exiled to Brussels. France's cultural luminaries had been invited, funeral eulogies to his work and memory prepared, the vault spruced up for the grand occasion. But at the last minute a Brussels court refused to allow exhum-

ation before Thursday. The ceremony was called off.

This sorry story of bureaucratic bungling began last year when the city of Brussels, in a grand gesture to honour the bicentenary of the French Revolution, offered to return David's remains. He was forced into exile here in 1816 by a law banning deputies who had voted for the death of Louis XVI. David died nine years later.

Generous Brussels has been racked by second thoughts. Figuring only marginally on the world's cultural map, Belgium feels that it needs all the fame it can claim, even if it is to be found in a cemetery.

Petitions against exhumation circulated in the universities. The head of the liberal

opposition in the city council demanded that a court invoke a 1971 law forbidding the grave - a designated historical monument - from being disturbed until the year 2021.

The mayor, however, obtained a counter-order permitting the exhumation - but only after Thursday, too late for the scheduled reburial.

The French sent Belgian courts a declaration that banishment no longer existed in French law. M Jack Lang, the Minister of Culture, appealed to Belgium's sense of honour.

A new interment date has not been fixed. Many think none will be. Belgians are rejoicing; the French are furious; David rests, presumably in peace.

Socialist leader keeps it simple for rural voters

From Our Own Correspondent
Niigata, Japan

It is not surprising that Miss Takako Doi, the pugnacious leader of Japan's opposition Socialists, looks out of place in Niigata, a rural, snowbound outpost of north-west Japan.

Best known for standing by its MP, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, long after he was disgraced in the Lockheed bribes scandal, it is also the birthplace of Admiral Yamamoto, the man who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor.

It is not natural turf for a woman who can get angry about 10 new things before breakfast and who promises voters a cleaner, gentler Japan.

Even in her cream Chanel-style suit, her gold earrings and bidding to steal local farmers' votes by promising to protect them from foreign imports - at the expense of consumers in the city and Japan's trade relations with just about everyone - she looks awkward and out of place.

She knows that when rice-growers here vote in the general election next Sunday they will remember that

Japan's Liberal Democrats have looked after them well for 35 years.

Mr Tanaka, who has been only a token MP in the years since he suffered a stroke, is bowing out of politics at last. But he kept his constituents loyal by making sure that this backwater received at least three times as much from the Government in public works projects as it paid in taxes. He brought the high-speed "bullet train" line to Niigata when commercial calculations made the idea look ludicrous; Niigata already has more highways, bridges and tunnels than it knows what to do with.

Miss Doi is lucky that she has no real policies or grand post-election strategy to confuse the voters. Her pledge is simple and designed to appeal to the self-interest of a provincial electorate, a yardstick they trust.

She promises to scrap a new sales tax, which would leave the Japanese 3 per cent better off but could leave the country short of cash for welfare.

If the applause she receives each time she repeats this tax-cut promise is baffling in a country whose con-

sumers as a matter of course pay at least twice the world price for everything because of Japan's Byzantine distribution system, it is even more baffling that she can breeze through an election campaign ignoring the events that are convulsing the rest of the world.

As Eastern Europe grapples with its future, as apartheid in South Africa cracks, and as the world wonders what a rich and powerful Japan can contribute in money and ideas, Miss Doi has turned the Japanese election into a referendum on the sales tax, passed by the Government last year.

This is partly because the Socialists, after 35 years in the political wilderness, seem to have few policies, and partly because those that they have are anti-American and out of step with Japan's modern role. The Socialists were caught off guard by their success in last summer's upper house election, when they benefited from a popular revolt against the sales tax and the Recruit bribery scandal.

Since then, however, they have failed to modernize a Marx-tinged

manifesto that still calls for socialist revolution. They have also failed to persuade opposition parties in the centre that the Socialists are a party they can do business with if an opposition coalition looks possible.

In the city of Niigata in Niigata prefecture, Miss Doi promised a crowd of 3,000 "politics without any lies", but it is also politics without much else that would help Japan to blend into the world community.

The Government has tried to persuade voters that the empress has no clothes by asking Miss Doi to explain how she would make up the tax revenues lost by scrapping the sales tax. She explained that the Socialists would reintroduce a defunct commodity tax of 22 per cent.

Perhaps Miss Doi's most curious failing is the lack of women candidates on the Socialist slate. She drew the women's vote last summer by marshalling housewives' anger over the new sales tax and promised them "woman power can change society". But only eight of the 148 Socialist candidates on Sunday are women.

Right-wing allies desert Sharon

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Mr Ariel Sharon's dramatic resignation from the Israeli Cabinet, a move intended to reverse the peace policy being pursued by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, threatened to backfire on Mr Sharon yesterday.

His allies on the right wing of the Likud party, notably Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, declined to join him in the wilderness. On the contrary, Mr Levy held talks with Mr Shamir to "avoid a split and ensure Likud unity".

The United States predicted that Mr Shamir would find it easier to pursue his plan for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza without Mr Sharon on his team. At the same time, Mr Shamir's aides made it clear that, if the peace talks did get off the ground, the Israeli leader would insist on tough terms, including an Israeli right to veto "unaccept-

able" members of the proposed Palestinian delegation.

The Labour Party, which is in coalition with Likud, said it would not withdraw "for the time being". But Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, said Labour would put Mr Shamir's intentions over the peace process "to the test" in

Cabinet. Left-wingers pressed for an "ultimatum" to Mr Shamir, but Mr Peres said he saw no need for a timetable at this stage.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has been increasingly worried that its avowed moderation has not paid off sufficiently in diplomatic dividends, described Mr Sharon's departure as a "hopeful sign".

Some Likud members said that Mr Sharon, a 61-year-old former war hero noted for his flamboyant style, should not be underestimated. There could be a damaging split in Likud, sources predicted, if Mr Sharon succeeded in mobilizing his following.

At Monday's Likud Central Committee meeting, when Mr Sharon stunned delegates by announcing he was standing down as Trade Minister to "fight for what I believe in", his supporters were at least as

vocal as those of Mr Shamir. Yesterday Likud officials expressed embarrassment at the confusion. Some said Mr Sharon's behaviour would cause Likud members to close ranks behind Mr Shamir.

Mr Shamir appeared to confirm the American view that he now had more room for manoeuvre by saying that Mr Sharon's resignation had "freed me from the dilemma of sitting with him (Sharon) in the same government".

Some diplomats said Mr Shamir had previously used his need to appease the Likud right wing as a reason for blocking the peace process or slowing it down. This argument would now lose some of its force, diplomats said.

The next phase of the peace process is to be a meeting of the Israeli, Egyptian and US foreign ministers on the composition of the Palestinian delegation to talks.

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One man, one mate, one marriage in new America

Letter from New York

As Cupid is invoked across America this week with the traditional frenzy of pink merchandise, mushy poems and "Valentine's promotions" by used-car dealers, the trend watchers have discerned proof that the great majority of husbands and wives are faithful to their spouses and aim to stay that way.

A string of surveys commissioned to gauge the mating business at the start of the Nineties has produced statistics that back up the fashionable view that Americans are shunning promiscuous habits in favour of old-fashioned romance and monogamy.

But some scepticism has greeted the statistics, since they have coincided, not just with St Valentine's Day, but also the most spectacular marital bust-up seen in New York for years - the divorce of Mr Donald Trump, the billionaire property magnate, and his wife, Ivana. In yesterday's instalment, the lawyers for each side threatened to sue each other for slander. Mr Trump was said to have lashed his wife out of her office at the Plaza Hotel, which she manages for him. "Gimme the Plaza, the jet and 150 million!" Mrs Trump was alleged by *The New York Post* to have demanded.

Finding for the alleged new taste for monogamy, the Gallup organization said 90 per cent of married Americans claim they have never had an affair, a contrast with the 60 per cent detected by earlier polls.

Gallup, whose work was commissioned by *Psychology Today* magazine and two television programmes, also found that Americans were largely content with their married condition.

Four out of five said they would wed the same person again and two-thirds called themselves very happy. On top of that, 51 per cent of women under 35 regretted having had sex before marriage, though only 16 per cent of men felt that way.

Mr George Harris, the editor of *Psychology Today*, said the survey showed that in America "the secret side of sex is faithfulness". Another poll, carried out for *Harlequin Romances*, the biggest publisher of the genre, found that 80 per cent of women would marry the same man.

Analysing the results, Father Andrew Greeley, a Catholic priest who is also a noted writer of steamy romances, said it showed that the long-touted backlash to the promiscuity of the 1960s had taken hold. Referring to earlier findings of 40 per cent infidelity, he suggested

that "people may talk more than they actually do," he said. The survey really only appeared to be catching up on what amounts to a sea change in middle-class America's public attitude to sex as the all-powerful "baby boom" generation has approached middle age.

As well as the more obvious dampers like Aids and the mania for "workoholism" in the Eighties, sex has now been consigned, along with alcohol, smoking and dope, to the category of unhealthy indulgence. Hundreds of self-help organizations have been set up across the country to help people break from their "addiction" to the opposite gender, a condition now described without a snigger as "sexoholism".

Where only a decade ago magazines were full of how-to tips for gourmet sex, the best-sellers now advise on the benefits of abstinence. The mania for bodily and mental health has reached such a level that much of the usual deluge of Valentine's Day advice has focused on matters such as where to find low-calorie chocolate substitutes to give your paramour and how to avoid "heating for the refrigerator or reaching for that cigarette" in the coital aftermath.

Even an attempt at simple flirtation can be fraught with danger now that more and more women are successfully suing colleagues and superiors with "sexual harassment" in the workplace.

Now that they have found that sex is not all that it was cracked up to be, Sixties parents are trying to find ways to convince their offspring of the dangers of excess. Some 60 per cent of US boys and girls are now said to lose their virginity before the age of 18. The abstinence campaign has just entered new territory in Washington state, where local legislators have proposed a law that would make it a crime for people under 18 to engage in sex, including "heavy petting". Offenders could spend up to 90 days in jail and face a \$5,000 (£3,000) fine. Prosecution would be halted if they decided to marry. The Bill will be examined at a session later this year.

Along with the downgrading of sex has come a new interest in the art of romance, say the psychologists, agony aunts and publishers. Daytime soap operas, the slushiest on US television, are enjoying a boom, as are the magazines that chronicle the fortunes of their characters.

Charles Bremner

Moscow in space for profit

Moscow (Reuters) - The first Soviet cosmonauts aiming to turn a profit in space arrived at the Mir orbital station yesterday for a mission Moscow hopes will save money and face for its struggling space programme.

The Soyuz TM9 mission, carrying Mr Anatoly Solovyov, the mission commander, and Mr Alexander Balandin, the flight engineer, is being underwritten by a plan to produce crystals in space for industrial use, and officials hope it will deflect growing criticism that their space programme is too costly at a time of economic problems and food shortages.

Rome (AFP) - Columns, some as high as those at the Pantheon, and marble blocks, believed to have been earmarked for the construction of monuments in Imperial Rome, have been discovered by divers on the bottom of the Tiber river.

Colombo (AFP) - The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, a pro-Indian Tamil party controlling Sri Lanka's North-Eastern province, threatened to declare independence unilaterally and become the state of Eelam.

Peking (AFP) - Mr Li Lianxi, the commander of the Chinese armed police, and Mr Zhang Xiufu, political commissar, have been dismissed from their posts in the special anti-riot force.

Wellington (AFP) - New Zealand's new Governor-General will be Dame Cath Tizard, the present Mayor of Auckland, who will be the first woman to hold the post.

Presidents set to widen the drug war

From Corinne Schmidt, Lima

When the Presidents of Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and the United States meet in Cartagena, Colombia, tomorrow, law enforcement officials hope they will not seek to pass the buck in waging the drug war.

A draft of the document to be signed commits the Presidents to "a general and intensified programme against narcotics" which takes into account economic co-operation and development, as well as reductions in supply and demand through police and military efforts.

Disagreement over who was to blame for the cocaine boom - American cocaine consumers, Colombian traffickers or Peruvian and Bolivian coca-growing peasants - have characterized the drug war until recently. But when the

Presidents of the three South American countries responded to the "Bush plan" by inviting its author to a summit, they acknowledged that, despite disagreement over strategy and focus, Latin American nations thought the US was finally beginning to get serious about drugs.

Enormous disagreements remain - particularly with Peru and Bolivia, where poverty (and, in Peru's case, violent insurgencies) preoccupy the Government.

Impoverished peasants in Peru and Bolivia grow 90 per cent of the coca leaves used in the world's cocaine. Peru fears that a crackdown would deepen the economic crisis which produced nearly 3,000 per cent inflation last year and strengthened the Shining

Path, the Maoist guerrilla organization.

Bolivia is the poorest nation in South America and President Paz Zamora has declared: "We cannot fight drugs by becoming poorer."

Some of Bolivia's proposals, such as balance-of-payments support and emergency aid for the rural poor hurt by eradication of coca, are already included in the Cartagena draft.

Latin American officials are enthusiastic about new US support for economic initiatives. "The United States seems to understand that stopping drugs is not just a question of bringing in four helicopters and hiring eradicators," President Garcia of Peru said.

As well as increasing eco-

nomic aid, which it is proposed to do next year, US officials say the Bush Administration is exploring the scope for economic opportunities in the Andean nations.

However, independent experts from all four countries, who met in Lima for a private conference on drug trafficking last week, were sceptical that US and Latin American interests would merge as harmoniously as the Cartagena participants hope.

American analysts fear that the United States will become bogged down in the Andean nations' internal conflict. The draft accord likely to be signed tomorrow, which offers US aid for "military efforts against the guerrillas" as well as against the traffickers, is likely to deepen such fears.

SPECTRUM

As another death from paracetamol overdose hits the headlines, Anne Kent asks: is it time to make this drug prescription only?

When the cure can be a killer

Most of us take it for granted that paracetamol, along with aspirin, is a safe remedy for aches, pains and fevers. And we assume that overdoses are taken only in a deliberate attempt at self destruction.

However, Teresa Butler, aged 30, killed herself by accident, by taking a variety of cold remedies containing the drug in the hope of relieving her flu symptoms. Instead of taking to her bed — the recommended treatment for influenza — she tried to soldier on and cook a Christmas lunch.

Each one of the remedies she used contained paracetamol, as do a vast number of over-the-counter cold remedies. While such compounds are all perfectly safe in themselves, an accumulation of paracetamol proved lethal for Butler.

Paracetamol was developed in the 1890s but was not introduced into the United Kingdom until 1956, when it was sold as Panadol. Its popularity began to rise in the 1960s, mainly because in the normal dose it has fewer side effects than aspirin, which has been in common use since the turn of the century. Ibuprofen, the other commonly used over-the-counter painkiller, was first sold in the UK as a prescription-only drug in 1969 and permission was given for its sale from the pharmacy in 1983.

All three drugs are chemically related substances which work because they interfere with the release and dispersal of prostaglandins.

Prostaglandins are natural substances which cause pain and inflammation at the site of a tissue injury. We need such substances to warn us when something is amiss: for example, when we burn our skin by touching a hot plate, or break a bone. Prostaglandins also augment the action of other naturally occurring pain-producing substances and are involved in the processes leading to high body temperature.

However, they also play an important role in protecting the lining of the gut, and interfering with their action can irritate the stomach, sometimes leading to ulcers. This problem is more serious with aspirin and ibuprofen than with paracetamol.

All three drugs are effective painkillers and will reduce high temperatures. Aspirin and ibuprofen have the added effects of reducing inflammation, and are arguably better for those suffering from aching joints as a result of influenza.

Although all these drugs come in expensive branded forms, they are just as effective and far cheaper when bought as aspirin, paracetamol and ibuprofen BP. A fourth drug, codeine, is often included in the more expensive over-the-counter remedies. Its effect is to make the brain ignore the pain messages from the prostaglandins, but its side-effects include constipation and there is a risk of dependency.



Twelve products, all of which contain paracetamol: there are more than 70 which can be bought over the counter from most pharmacists. Some can also be bought in corner shops

On the shelves: the doses and the warnings

There are more than 70 products containing paracetamol which can be bought over the counter at the chemist. The most popular include: Anadin Extra, Beecham's Powders Capsules, Beecham's Hot Lemon, Benlylin Day & Night, Calpol, Catarr Ex, Code-Med, Coldrex, Contrapain, Hadanol, Day Nurse, Disprin Extra, Disprin, Doliprin, Efferalgan, Flurac, Formulix, Hodal, Junior Disprin, Junior Panadol, Lemsip, Lemsip, Kigraleve, Mu-Cron, Night Nurse, Panadol, Paracetamol, Paracetamol, Persomol, Phenol, Propan, Struth, Solpadol, Sudafed-Co, Tram, Triogesic, Uniflu, Veganin and Vicks Medilite.

Information given on the packaging of different products varies, as the following comparison of 12 of the most popular products available in a London chemist shows. The majority of them warn those already taking medicine to consult their doctor (or pharmacist) before using their product, those that do not are Anadin Extra, Beecham's Hot Lemon and Beecham's Resolve. Beecham's Day Nurse, Beecham's Night Nurse and Beecham's Night Nurse capsules state that the product should not be taken with any

other cold or decongestant medicine or paracetamol-containing medicine.

Every packet or carton carries a printed warning, written in capital letters, to the effect that the contents contain paracetamol, and all products warn consumers not to exceed the stated dose. Special reference is made for doses for children. A spokesman for Parke-Davis, which manufactures Benlylin Day & Night cold treatment said: "On the inside of the package there is a warning that people already taking medicines should consult their doctor or pharmacist. We think this is sufficiently clear. There is a limited amount of space for information and, in any case, too much might simply confuse people. It all comes down to the question of educating the public."

A spokesman for the Wellcome Foundation, manufacturers of Calpol, said: "Our labelling is adequate because it also says 'if you are currently taking any other medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking this product'. We feel this is more helpful than warning people about taking other medicines containing paracetamol. If we did that they

might feel it was safe to take medicines containing other things."

Anadin Extra (48 tablets, £2.16). Dose: (all doses given are for adults, unless otherwise stated): 1-2 tablets every four hours. Each tablet contains 200mg paracetamol. Warning: Do not exceed six tablets in any 24 hours. Do not exceed the stated dose. Beecham's Powders Capsules (10 capsules, £1.03). Dose: Two capsules every 3-4 hours. Each capsule contains 500mg paracetamol. Warning: Do not exceed 12 capsules in any 24 hours. Do not exceed the stated dose. Each capsule contains 300mg paracetamol. Benlylin Day & Night (five tablets, £2.15). Dose: Three yellow tablets during the day, one blue tablet each night. Each tablet contains 500mg paracetamol. Warning: Take only one tablet at a time and only at the time of day indicated. Do not exceed the stated dose. An overdose is dangerous and medical attention should be sought immediately. Calpol Six Plus (100ml, £1.98). Dose: Four times a day. Do not exceed stated dose. Adults and children over 12 years, two to

four 5ml spoonfuls. Children 6-12 years, one to two 5ml spoonfuls. Warning: Do not take more than four doses in 24 hours. Do not repeat doses more frequently than four hourly. Faminal (20 tablets, £1.46). Dose: Up to two tablets every four hours. Each tablet contains 500mg paracetamol. Warning: Do not take more than six tablets in 24 hours. Not to be taken by persons suffering from glaucoma. Do not exceed the stated dose. Lemsip (five sachets, £1.15). Dose: One sachet every four hours. Each sachet contains 650mg paracetamol. Warning: Do not exceed four doses in any 24 hours. Night Nurse (100ml, £2.60). Dose: 20ml before going to bed. Each 20ml dose contains 1,000mg paracetamol. Warning: Do not take with any other cold or decongestant medicine or any other paracetamol-containing medicines at night or with alcohol. Resolve (five sachets, 90p). Dose: One sachet every four hours. One sachet contains 1,000mg paracetamol. Do not take more than four sachets in any 24 hours. Do not exceed the stated dose. Vicks Medilite (180ml, £2.35). Dose: 30ml at bedtime. Each

30ml dose contains 600mg paracetamol. Warning: Do not exceed the stated dose. Aspirinics should consult their doctor before using the product. Avoid alcoholic drink. Beecham Night Nurse capsules (10 capsules, £1.68). Dose: (adults and children of 12 and over): Two capsules just before bed. Each capsule contains 500mg paracetamol. Warning: Do not exceed the stated dose. Do not take with any other cold or decongestant medicine or other paracetamol-containing medicine at night, or with alcohol. Day Nurse (eight doses, £2.60). Dose: (adults and children 12 and over): 20ml repeat every four hours as required up to maximum of four doses. Lower dosage if Night Nurse being taken. Warning: Do not take with any other cold or decongestant medicine or other paracetamol-containing medicine, or with alcohol. Beecham's Hot Lemon Cold Remedy (5 sachets, £1.15). Dose: (adults and children of 12 and over): One sachet every four hours, up to maximum of six sachets in any 24-hour period. Each sachet contains 600mg paracetamol. Warning: Do not exceed the stated dose.

pharmacy at the University of Wales: "Going above the recommended dose of two paracetamol tablets does not increase the benefits. It just increases the risks. The problems with mixtures of medicines [compound cold cures] is that if you take an extra dose, you not only get more paracetamol but more of the other ingredients which could include the antihistamine promethazine which makes you sleepy.

"It is essential that if people are taking one drug they should consult their doctor or pharmacist before taking another."

The usual adult dose of paracetamol is one to two tablets every four to six hours, with a

maximum of four grams (eight tablets) daily. This is quite safe, even when maintained over long periods. However, 7.5 grams (15 tablets) taken within a few hours is enough to cause liver damage, while greater doses can lead to death. According to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society the safest course is never to exceed eight tablets spread over 24 hours.

The range of paracetamol remedies is vast. Pharmacist Jeremy Clitherow, of Liverpool, was able to count 30 on his shelves yesterday. He said: "Paracetamol is a very safe, useful drug, which is dreadfully poisonous in overdose. I recommend aspirin to people with flu. It is important that people ask the pharmacist's advice, and make a point of saying what other drugs they are taking. Aspirin, for instance, is unsuitable for people with ulcers, problems with stomach bleeding and those who are taking anti-clotting drugs like Warfarin."

Clitherow warns that sweet flavoured children's painkillers, such as Calpol, which contain paracetamol, should be kept in a safe place because "they taste so nice that children might be tempted to drink the lot."

Should paracetamol be so easily available?

Clitherow says he would feel happier if it could be bought only at pharmacies. "If a pharmacist saw someone buying paracetamol and Lemsip and Night Nurse and Resolve all at the same time, he or she would warn the customer." Bruce Rhodes, assistant secretary of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, said: "It would be absolutely counter-productive to make paracetamol prescription-only. The public requires an easily accessible painkiller, and used properly, paracetamol is the safest."

Several months ago the RPS suggested to the Department of Health that an emetic should be added to paracetamol as a condition of its sale. This would have no effect in normal dose, but would induce vomiting in those who took too much. The suggestion was turned down by the department.

"We also think that paracetamol should only be sold in pharmacies, and not from the shelves of the supermarket and corner shop," Rhodes says.

Enter education, stage left

Not long ago in these pages, Sheridan Morley argued in favour of a department of drama at Oxford University, while Griff Rhys Jones argued against. Step forward the expert! I think I can claim to be the only Times columnist who actually read drama at university.

My parents and teachers wanted me to go to university, and I didn't want to go to university, and so, by way of compromise, I went to read drama at Bristol. Without a magnifying glass, it would have been hard to spot the difference between the Drama Department prospectus and the brochure for a particularly civilized holiday. They seem to cater for all ages, with courses in lighting and make-up and movement and sound, plus fun with television cameras, a video library, films, and courses on all the latest in modern drama.

The academic side of things was by no means onerous. The year before I arrived, a series of sit-ins had reduced the essay quota from four per year to three. We were also allowed to set our own essay subjects. I chose as my first essay a review of *La Grande Bouffe*, a comic and very disgusting



CRAIG BROWN

film about four Frenchmen eating themselves to death. I was allowed to write about it because it was rumoured to possess an underlying Marxist allegory, a criterion upon which much art was judged in the mid-Seventies. To a quivering refugee from O levels and A levels, the lectures were a doodle. My first class was called *Relaxation*. A (rather nervy) specialist in the subject would come regularly from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School to supervise us, and for an hour or so we would lie on the floor with our eyes closed imagining ourselves to be either lumps of lead or feathers. It must have been the only degree-level class in the entire country in which a student who managed a successful slumber would draw acclaim from one and all.

Even the movement and mime class was hardly exhausting, though I had little natural aptitude for being a falling leaf, a storm, or the

colour yellow. In the voice class we were encouraged to speak gibberish to an appreciative audience, often at a volume that would have merited severity.

It has been at school. In those days before security cameras became commonplace in supermarkets, it was still quite unusual to be able to see ourselves moving about on the small screen, and so our admission to the department's own television studio in the second term was particularly exciting. The joy of pulling funny faces while surrounded by camera crews, assistant producers, lighting people and sound recordists usually comes to a man later in life, and then only if he has worked hard to become a celebrity, but here it was part of normal student life.

On the academic side the visiting lecturers, bearded, bohemian, besandalled, Brechtian, tended to be just the type of person our school teachers had warned us against. It must

be hard for anyone who has never attended a lecture given by Mike Leigh on the making of *Abigail's Party* to appreciate quite how relaxed a university can be.

I suppose there will be those who, reading this, will think that I am arguing against the new drama department at Oxford University. Quite the opposite.

Universities are the ideal places for the young to spend three years idling about, failing in love, arguing, posing, staying up late, reading, behaving irresponsibly and enjoying themselves, and the Bristol drama department encouraged all these pursuits. I now think that they are skills of far more lasting value to an adult than the tedious accruing of facts and figures offered by conventional academic courses.

Those of my friends who went to Oxford still find it hard to let their hair down. Everything they do tends to be done for a purpose as if they are being subjected to continuous assessment until their dying days. They, and countless others, would, I think, benefit greatly from a year or two in which they can pretend to be a falling leaf, a storm or the colour yellow.

Cooking without the adjectives

Jonathan Meades has been eating in a working men's dining room. What a cook! What a

THE TIMES ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

perfectly straight forward. This is cooking without adjectives. There are few chefs who can achieve this, Meades writes.

Does such a find herald the start of an era that will see the end of the greasy spoon? Find out in *The Times* on Saturday.

salmon, and is almost soufied. The chef does simple things very well. It's all perfect and



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TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

One can't help feeling that John Gummer, Agriculture Minister, is taking his commitment to the Food from Britain campaign a little too seriously. On top of his announcement this week of a further £3.5 million a year for the organization which promotes British food and drink at home and abroad, I hear that he indulges in a little free-range promotion at official luncheons. Whenever possible Gummer consults the chef before the meal to discover which items on the menu are not of British origin. After the cheese and biscuits he then stands up and berates his hosts for daring to provide foreign produce at his table. His *tour de force* consists of producing a bag of overseas food products bought at a nearby supermarket and providing his fellow diners with a suitably patriotic commentary as he pulls out each offending item. Gummer's tactics, I am told, have caused wide offence, but he is unrepentant. "One of our problems is that too many people think that something from abroad is better than goods we produce at home," he says.

Tactfully sparing Labour blushes by not mentioning the dread word "privatization", National Power, one of the companies set up in preparation for the electricity sell-off, was nevertheless much in evidence at the party's local government conference in Cardiff at the weekend. The conference guide euphemistically announced: "Under the new arrangements for the electricity supply industry, National Power has commercial freedom to market its products, skills and expertise widely and competitively." Its exhibition stall at the conference featured a model windmill in a glass case. But why wasn't it working? A small electrical fault, National Power employees explained to Labour delegates, already sceptical about the company's ability to run the national grid.

MPs and their staff will be the congregation at a Westminster church tonight for a recording to go out on BBC's *Songs of Praise* on February 25. Emma Nicholson, Tory MP for Devon West, will play the organ and the estimable Dame Jill Knight will sing a solo. The church is appropriately consecrated to the greater glory of St Margaret.

After Bernard Ingham's strictures last week about inaccurate journalists, what are we meant to make of Monday's retail sales figures? Government press officers at the Central Statistical Office briefed journalists that the increase in spending was very bad news and, if anything, even worse than the figures suggested. Not so, said a Treasury spokesman; the CSO had got it all wrong. The underlying trend, according to the Treasury man, is that retail spending is coming down and the Government is on target after all. One of Ingham's criticisms was of the so-called Le Carré syndrome, a tendency of the Press not to believe everything it is told by government press officers.

BARRY FANTONI



'I hear training this week includes running down to the betting shop'

Edward Heath has found, like many of his fellow countrymen, that the lavish promises of timeshare companies are often not what they seem. Heath recently received a letter from White Sands Holidays telling him that he could win a spectacular prize simply by phoning to make an appointment. Although the cash and holiday prizes had already been won by "Mr Smith and Mrs Jones", a set of pearl earrings and a new Ford Fiesta still awaited a winner, and in the queue to claim the car, Heath was told "no one is ahead of you". Intrigued, he responded and turned up last week at the company's London office, where staff spent some considerable time trying to sell him a timeshare in a luxury flat in Minorca. He declined to buy, and when he asked for his free car it not surprisingly failed to materialize. Yesterday Heath wrote to the company chairman asking him to justify his methods of luring potential customers and, if he does not get a satisfactory reply, his office tells me he will be "looking to take the matter further".

Heath's disappointment, by the way, is not too great. As a former prime minister he enjoys for life the services of a chauffeur-driven government limo.

"The funny thing about them", said the perspicacious cabby, stout representative of the wise and silent breed, "is that they all look so bloody unhealthy." He swivelled his bright red face. "I've got my mountain bike back home in Hertfordshire, and that gets me physically fit, but where's the benefit in biking up Piccadilly?" He revved his diesel and pumped fumes into the face of the keep-fit fanatic in the fluorescent Sam Browne behind him.

Are cyclists green, mean or just tired of life? Motorists in London hate them for the same reason that bronchial journalists hate non-smokers - guilt - but what the hell do these fanatics propel themselves around London in all weathers for? For the good of the community in general? For the betterment of tubular steel manufacturers the world over? They are not doing it for themselves.

John Major must be sick of articles playing on his father's period as a circus trapeze artist. He himself is rather the strong man at the bottom of a pyramid of acrobats. Ask any minister about Tory election prospects and the answer is a shrug and comment on the lines of: "Well, it's all up to the Chancellor. If John gets his sums right we can do it..." One misjudgement, though, and the edifice can tumble.

Major's performance so far has been highly effective. Everyone has forgotten the widespread view that the City would go into convulsions on Nigel Lawson's departure. Major's speech on the Autumn Statement was a success, despite the bleak message that "1990 may not be an easy year". It stamped his authority on the job and showed how hard it was for Labour to get a purchase on him.

Now comes the sticky part. Tory morale needs boosting and Major needs the chance to broaden his appeal from the efficient to the inspirational. But he comes to his Budget on March 20 with less room for manoeuvre than any Chancellor since Sir Geoffrey Howe in 1980-81.

With the Mid-Staffs by-election looming, and local government elections likely to prove a disaster for the Tories after the introduction of the poll tax in

England, Tory MPs concede that things will get worse before they get better. But they hope that an ingenious Chancellor can stop them getting too much worse.

Major's ear is being bent by every pressure group in the party. Some MPs relay the CBI's call for lower interest rates and more spending on the infrastructure. The Bow Group has called for a cut in the standard rate of income tax to 20p, abolition of the higher rate and abolition of inheritance tax, to be financed by raising VAT and widening the base of collection. Others demand a "savers' Budget".

Then there are more specific demands from particular groups which see justification for their claims in the Government's expressed aims. Some say that if Mrs Thatcher really wants to increase the number of fathers helping to support families they have deserted, the Chancellor must look again at the taxation of maintenance payments, introduced in 1988. To encourage more mothers to return to work, a powerful Cabinet group is

Robin Oakley sees little prospect of Budget largesse

Major's limited options

backing calls for a child-care tax allowance.

The two main areas where the pressure is most intense are health and the environment. Health lobbies, mindful that Lawson did not increase excise duties on strong drink and tobacco last year, are calling for Major to hit both. Environmentalists want him to raise the duty on petrol, except unleaded, and Tories, remembering the Greens' 15 per cent of the vote in the Euro elections last June, are calling for a "green Budget".

Major is urged to take a tougher line on the taxation of company cars, to tax free parking spaces and to double the tax on cars with engines of 2,000cc or more. On a different front, there is said to be continued pressure from Number Ten for a rise in the £30,000 ceiling on mortgage interest relief.

But for almost every one of these suggestions there is a snag. Can Major backtrack so obviously on maintenance payments having been Lawson's deputy when the tax was introduced? If

he pleases environmentalists by hitting the motorist, he will further alienate many middle-class voters already clobbered by higher mortgage repayments. Higher duty on drink and tobacco would push up the Retail Price Index when Major's top priority is to curb inflation and mounting wage pressures.

As for extending mortgage interest relief, the snags are of a different kind. If Major were to give in to Mrs Thatcher, after the Treasury's 15-year battle to see this subsidy wither on the vine, he would be condemned forever as the Prime Minister's poodle.

So what will we see from the Chancellor on March 20? Tory economists broadly go along with a common City view that with the Budget surplus for the current year likely to turn out well below the forecast, Major will have to increase taxes by some £1 billion to re-establish a sufficiently tough fiscal stance to carry conviction in his battle against inflation. And he has more than £500 million to "find" to cover the cost this year

of introducing separate taxation for husbands and wives.

Tory MPs have resigned themselves to no further tax cuts. Major has warned them that although the aim of a 20p standard rate remains, there is no pledge to redeem it in this parliament. But what they will not take without ructions is an increase in the standard rate. So Major will probably content himself with a failure to index the tax allowances in line with inflation, increasing government revenues by some £1.5 billion.

Expect little on the encouragement of savings. Major believes much has already been done, and the Treasury is convinced that new savings plans usually do no more than recycle existing savings money.

Green moves will largely await a White Paper due later this year. But a further boost for unleaded petrol is on the cards. So is a higher tax on company car perks. While this would be disliked by beneficiaries and the British car industry, it would cut imports. MPs are convinced there will

be increases in drink and tobacco duties. Double indexing of all excise duties would bring the Chancellor an extra £1.3 billion, and although that would add temporarily to inflation, the increase would "drop out" of the figures in April 1991 and help to put inflation on a downward path in time for an autumn election next year.

Tory strategists are saying that Major can afford a slightly higher RPI this summer so long as the trend is firmly downward by next winter. And he can afford a basically unpopular Budget this year provided it puts him in a position to take a penny off the standard rate and play Mr. Nice Guy next year.

Possibly. But with wages taking off, there are influential voices counselling that Major cannot afford anything but the minimum blip on the inflation figures. The question is how unpopular a Budget can the Chancellor afford with Labour now extending its lead in the opinion polls?

Trying against that background to keep the economy damped down until inflation is firmly under control, in the knowledge that it must then be stoked up again in time to win an election in autumn 1991 or perhaps spring 1992, gives Major what must be the least enviable task in politics today.

Peter Stothard

The Strangler stalks again

Ten years ago, the people of Los Angeles were rapt by the unfolding horror story of the rape, torture and suffocation of 10 young women by two men, known collectively as the Hillside Strangler. For the rest of this year, if Republican strategists have their way, the Strangler will be back on the front pages all over California.

This week sees the beginning of the most expensive and crucial election campaign of the American political year. Whoever wins the \$30 million race to be governor of the nation's largest and fastest growing state will have veto power over the boundaries for up to 10 new congressional seats after the 1990 census.

If the Democrats add the governor's mansion to their hold over the state legislature, they will be able by legal gerrymandering to dominate Californian politics completely. They would also tighten their grip on Congress for a further decade. To a Republican president, the stakes are higher than in any campaign but his own.

Back in 1981, today's top Democrat contender, John Van de Kamp, was the Los Angeles county attorney in charge of the Hillside Strangler investigation. He withdrew murder charges against the chief suspect, Angelo Buono, because, he claimed, the evidence, obtained primarily from Buono's plea-bargaining accomplice, Kenneth Bianchi, was insufficiently strong.

A judge overruled him. The case was handed to the Republican state attorney general, George Deukmejian, who secured murder convictions against Buono on nine of the ten killings, and subsequently his own election to the governorship, a job he has held for the past eight years.

The Republican candidate to succeed him, Senator Pete Wilson, is determined that his opponent's 10-year-old mistake will not be forgotten. He devoted the first day of his election tour this week to little else.

Today's campaign planners are well aware of the success of the "Willie Horton tactic" in the 1988 presidential campaign, by which George Bush depicted Michael Dukakis, his Democratic opponent, as responsible for the crimes of a black rapist and murderer who reoffended while on temporary furlough from a Massachusetts jail. The furlough law had been enacted under a Republican state governor, but Dukakis, during his term of office, had not sought its repeal. The issue stuck out as a peg on which his self-proclaimed liberalism could be hung.

The Hillside Strangler case could be an even stronger weapon in California this year. Van de Kamp was directly and personally at fault in 1981, as he now admits. The crimes were peculiarly awful, even by the standards of Los Angeles. Buono and Bianchi seized their 10

victims on the street by pretending to be police officers. They mixed torture with sexual assaults in a manner which the trial judge said would have brought the death penalty if the jury had allowed it.

Worse still for Van de Kamp, there was strong suspicion at the time that he had shied away from the murder charges because of the effect an unsuccessful prosecution might have had on his prospects in the election for California's attorney general.

His prospects for the governorship this year look bleak. Van de Kamp's chief Democratic primary contender, Dianne Feinstein, former mayor of San Francisco, is also savaging him, saying that her party will probably lose with the Hillside issue hanging over its campaign.

In only one important respect may Buono and Bianchi be less disastrous to Van de Kamp than Horton was to Dukakis. Unlike Dukakis, the Californian is fighting. He is not sitting still and simply allowing the Republicans to hang liberal labels around his neck.

He boasts that as attorney general, he has put more people on the threshold of the gas chamber than anyone in Californian history. He does not support the death penalty himself, he says, but is happy to administer it. "How many people has Pete Wilson put on death row?" asks his campaign chairwoman.

Before the November election, California may see its first execution since 1967. The state's tortuous appeal process is about to end in the case of Robert Alton Harris, who was sentenced to death for the murder of two teenagers at about the time of the Hillside killings.

All candidates will doubtless try to exact some credit from the recommissioning of the death chamber. Senator Wilson drew his most vocal support this week by attacking judicial delays and calling for torture to be a separate crime on the statute book. The eventual gassing of Robert Harris may temporarily distract attention from the unsavoury plea-bargaining routinely conducted with murderers throughout the state.

Much of the media-driven politicking in a modern American election is about creating a simple ugly mask for one's opponent and making sure it sticks to his face. Van de Kamp, like most lawyer-politicians, has a mixed record on violent crime and capital punishment, partly mirroring his fellow citizens' changing attitudes over the years. Senator Wilson, like most legislators, has a record marred by the receipt of payments from lobbyists (another hot issue, in which future promises differ greatly from past actions).

Van de Kamp's problem is that his Hillside Strangler mask is so easily fashioned. And his Republican opponents have some of the best manufacturers in the business.



To meet the challenge of German reunification, Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing put their trust in an EC federal union based on Franco-German unity

of this requires a strong political impulse that can only be provided jointly by France and Germany.

The first task to undertake without delay is to clear up any misunderstandings, especially those affecting Britain. We must draw up a specific and exhaustive list of the policy areas that will be the responsibility of the union, and of those that will remain the responsibility of the member states. That list will be based on the "subsidiarity principle", which says that central government should only have powers and responsibilities that cannot be handled at lower levels.

This federation, of a type never seen before, will require a constitution or a "basic law", because the existing institutions can no longer cope with the rapid pace of European developments.

It is essential that this task be carried out during the 1990s, but it will not come about without a political will at the Community's three levels: the European Council, the Commission and the Parliament. Any enlargement that would slow down the process or dilute the political will must be postponed until the Community has agreed on its future structure and rules.

The French and German leaders should co-operate in demonstrating this political commitment, for without their common will, progress will be slow and

minimal, as has been the case in the monetary sphere since 1980. Until recently, relations between the Community and the communist countries of Eastern Europe have developed on a progressive, case-by-case basis, with trade agreements being negotiated bilaterally. The democratic uprisings of recent months have changed the picture completely.

As the tide of communism ebbs, and the land uncovered is seen to differ from country to country, so our responses must vary. Some countries will wish to become incorporated into the Community, although at the moment the only probable candidate for a relatively early accession is East Germany. Others, such as Poland, Hungary and, no doubt, Czechoslovakia, will set as the goal of their economic restructuring a standard of living comparable to that within the EC.

The proper approach for dealing with these countries is to provide aid, emergency aid, transfer of know-how, technology and investment aid. Since this aid comes mainly from public funds, it should be channelled exclusively through the EC, with France and Germany acting as one.

Since they have been cut off from Western political life for so long, the public and the new

leaders in the countries of Eastern Europe are unaware of the close friendship that now exists between France and Germany. They still imagine that our countries are suspicious and jealous of one another, and this both reassures and worries them.

In the next few months, they must be persuaded that the Europe with which they will be associated will be based on a close and irreversible friendship between our two countries, each of which, in the past, sought to attract them into hostile alliances against the other. Joint visits by the foreign ministers would demonstrate the new friendship and understanding.

The growth in economic power of the reunified Germany will have to be offset, and we will have to rely on the joint undertakings of the other European countries, within a market context, to balance the new German economic might. This must be accompanied by the use of EC resources to accelerate the development of southern Europe - Italy, Spain and Portugal - so as to maintain the existing equilibrium between the different parts of the Community.

We believe that at the beginning of an entirely new era in Europe, France and Germany must act jointly to overcome the dangers and to seize the opportunities as they did daringly through the pooling of resources in the 1950s.

We call on the leaders of our two countries to set as a new objective the union of the European states, in which Germany may enjoy its unity while Europe maintains the balance it vitally needs.

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was President of France, 1974-1981. Helmut Schmidt was Chancellor of West Germany, 1974-1982.

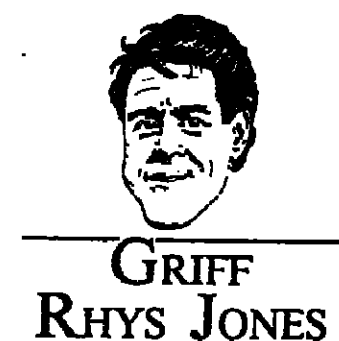
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When greenery meets a red light

Apart from a plunge in the Bay of Naples, I can hardly think of a form of exercise less likely to prolong active life.

If you are hunched over your velocipede and 4,000 tons of bovine carcasses en route to Smithfield suddenly tool by at 60 miles an hour, the effect is like balancing on a pogo stick on the exhaust outlet of an uncovered agricultural machine. In the wet, it's like balancing on a pogo stick on the exhaust outlet of an uncovered agricultural machine on Polperro groin during a gale. You can assure yourself that you are perfectly safe, but it doesn't feel perfectly safe. It feels distinctly dangerous. It feels like

something your mother would not like to know you were doing. Mr G Reg. convinced that the space between the white lines is wide enough to contain his car and nothing else, prefers to treat the cyclist as a non-existent obstacle. Nobody can be expected to hobble along behind a plastic-wrapped form balanced on a lattice of levers and cogs for more than a yard or two, so they squeeze past at 40mph. Add to this a propensity to ignore oncoming bicycles at junctions, open doors without looking and boot menacingly before passing at 70mph, and our sympathies are with the cyclist: poor, selfless community-conscious thing.



GRIFF RHYS JONES

So why does this poor, selfless community-conscious thing have to behave like a pillock? Is there a reason why so many cyclists wobble up one-way streets after dark without visible navigation

marks? Try driving your car at night with the lights off: you will be treated to a veritable horn concerto, and enough flashing lights for a Pink Floyd concert. But an illuminated pushbike is as common as a pig in Oxford Street.

And what about that particularly bold type of cyclist who gets some nameless kick from zooming up the middle of the fast lane? There is always one in the underpass in the Euston Road, his little legs thrashing round like a yo-yo, proclaiming his prowess, his rights, his sheer ability to keep up with the 30mph traffic. But the traffic might have been proceeding at 50mph, and were it

not for the slight winking gleam off his chrome pedal-backs, he would by now have been slapped all over the front of my car.

Along with repellent leggings and silly helmets shaped like bedpans, the kamikaze instinct has become an indispensable modern biking accessory, for doom-brained messenger boy and sit-up-and-beg college lecturer alike. Tell me, are there any cyclists remaining in the metropolises who think that traffic lights apply to them? Are they so covered in muck sprayed up from the carriage, flying blind, on instruments only, that they are unable to distinguish 10ft high poles with bright red lights on the

top of them? What possible justification can the community-minded, socially-aware do-gooder on his ecologically sound motion machine have for ignoring the basic social contract that renders the proper motion of transport generally free of unnecessary fatalities?

"If the light turns red, just hop across" does not apply in my community of road users. In downtown Cairo they may lean on their horns until the light changes, but only a madman or a fool would trickle across regardless. So why do they do it?

What am I talking about? Only a madman rides a bike in London these days. I did, until the stress wore me out. Thank God for the internal combustion engine. I say, here's lead in your petrol, and in your eye and a criminally expensive British Rail season ticket in your pocket.

The Labour benches yesterday were a veritable zoo of raucous interjections of Mr Neil Kinnock by saying "the ANC..." At a somewhat provocative and unconventional parliamentary session, Mr Kinnock's words were precise significance, the mark, though later when he was called for. It could, in a pertinent response to a further howl, when Mr Neil Kinnock must stay, say, that he knew better. To the ANC, Mandela had made a statement in his first speech, a statement, including his statement, and she noted, in his later press conference, that just as it had been, so it was now right to encourage President de Klerk.

Mr Kinnock came back with a statement that she knows better. It is hard to say other way than that, it is Mrs Thatcher's statement that sanctions are to the Prime Minister should be a not a requirement on sanctions should be

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THE ISSUE IS NEUTRALITY

Chancellor Kohl's agreement with Herr Hans Modrow in Bonn yesterday that the two German states should be included in any talks among the Four Powers about German reunification — the so-called "two plus four" formula — was a foregone conclusion after the Soviet-German summit in Moscow last week-end. Once Herr Kohl had, like a wealthy suitor, received President Gorbachov's formal assent to his request for the hand of the Soviet leader's impoverished East German ward, it was clear that the current East German leadership would have little choice in the matter.

A provisional timetable for German reunification is emerging. The joint commission established yesterday to prepare for monetary union was the first step. Next month will see East German elections, followed by a formal application to Bonn by the new non-communist Government. Its acceptance, accompanied by constitutional amendments, would then be carried by the Bundestag and Bundesrat.

At some point representatives of both German states would meet the Four Powers to wind up the quadripartite regime in Berlin and reach agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet forces from East Germany. Finally, meetings of the 35 CSCE states would ratify the first major change in the map of Europe since 1949. The extension of the West German federal elections in December to include the East would presumably confirm the statehood of the new Germany.

Herr Modrow's insistence upon the neutrality of the new German State has been consistently rejected by Herr Kohl. The Soviet President's acquiescence in West German demands that he honour his promise to grant self-determination to the Germans seems to have demoted neutrality from a necessary to a merely desirable condition of reunification. Herr Kohl will yesterday have impressed upon Herr Modrow that neutrality is too high a price to pay for a prize which the East German Prime Minister is neither empowered nor able to withhold. Yet this appears to be the prospect

which not only Herr Modrow, but also the principal opposition parties in both East and West Germany now hold out.

The reformed East German Social Democrats are likely to emerge as the victors of the elections in a month's time, thanks in part to the powerful patronage of their West German counterparts. Adenauer's fear that a reunited Germany would have a built-in left-wing majority cannot be far from Herr Kohl's thoughts. An East German partner for the Chancellor's Christian Democrats, the German Social Union, has emerged too late to challenge the appeal of the Social Democrats, who can still field a figure of the historic stature of Herr Willy Brandt.

Both Social Democratic parties are proposing that a unified Germany should belong neither to Nato nor the Warsaw Pact, but to some as yet unspecified pan-European security system embracing East and West. Alarmingly vague though this might seem, opinion polls suggest that the overwhelming majority of East German voters would prefer neutrality, while a less massive but still absolute majority of West Germans would opt for the same.

Thus Herr Oskar Lafontaine, who would almost certainly be the Social Democrats' candidate for the chancellorship of a reunited Germany, is seeking to outflank Herr Kohl by dressing up German neutrality as a means of asserting German independence. In reality, it would be an infallible formula for apprehension, if not worse, among Germany's neighbours. A double election victory for the Social Democrats this year would be an unearned triumph for Soviet diplomacy.

The return of the East German prodigal will, when it happens, undoubtedly warrant the killing of one or two of Bonn's fatted calves. However, a Germany whose first deed after achieving unity was to leave the Western camp could not expect others to join the celebrations. Such a fatal step would suggest that the besotted father had not merely welcomed his son home, but had abandoned everything to join him on new wanderings.

MR GORBACHOV FORCES THE PACE

President Gorbachov's strategy for political and economic reform, and the tactics he intends to pursue, have become much clearer as a result of decisions taken by the praesidium of the Supreme Soviet this week. Its release of the text of the new Communist Party platform agreed by the Central Committee last week was more than an exercise in *glasnost*. It was a necessary preliminary to what seems to be a determined bid by Mr Gorbachov to entrench his key proposals in law — possibly without even waiting for the 28th party Congress to meet in June.

Today, the Supreme Soviet begins drafting legislation on the status of the party, the role of the State and economic reforms, and it has called for the early convening of the Congress of People's Deputies, the body empowered to change the Constitution of the Soviet Union. That suggests that by the time the party Congress meets, the Soviet Parliament may have already passed laws providing for the direct election of a state President with strong executive powers, and the amendment of Article 6, the clause guaranteeing the party's monopoly of power.

Pre-emptive legislation would strengthen Mr Gorbachov's defences against any possible "conservative" backlash. The Congress would be unable to retreat from the agreement he obtained from the Central Committee that "the separation of legislative, executive and judiciary powers is fundamentally important". The contrast between the Central Committee's grudging rhetoric and the substance of the platform to which they agreed suggests that attack may be Mr Gorbachov's best defence.

The platform is riddled with linguistic contradictions. It reaffirms the party's faith in "the creative spirit of the materialist world outlook" and its adherence to the 1917 formulas of "power to the Soviets, factories to the workers, land to the peasants". Yet it accepts that "the renewal of socialist society" implies parting with such sacrosanct principles as the hegemony of the State, class warfare and the

dictatorship of the proletariat. Its definition of a "planned market economy" to replace the command system is unexpectedly radical.

Not only is private property ownership sanctioned, specifically including that of "the means of production". Competition between "diverse" property forms is recognized as "the economic basis of civil freedoms" and, through competition between independent manufacturers, "the guarantee of consumers' interests and rights".

In what appears a radical reversal of the conservative economic policies adopted last December, the platform goes a long way to accepting market regulation of the economy. It states that the system of artificial prices, with their inefficient subsidies to some and ruinous deductions from others "provide false reference points for economic management" and must be overhauled. It looks chiefly to market competition, including that of foreign companies, to regulate and restrain prices.

The document envisages the creation of markets for "consumer goods, capital goods, securities, investment, currencies and research and development" and acknowledges the need for early reform of the financial, monetary and credit systems. That kind of "planned market", with its emphasis on the macro-economic enabling role of the State, reads more like Adam Smith than Marx.

The adoption by so conservative a body as the Central Committee of such a platform represents a considerable triumph for Mr Gorbachov. If translated into law as it stands, it could have more far-reaching consequences for the evolution of political and economic pluralism in the Soviet Union than the party's reluctant endorsement of constitutional and party reforms. For that reason it could run into heavy opposition from the *apparatchiks*. Mr Gorbachov will not only need the new executive powers to be conferred on the presidency; he would be well advised to have them in place before the party Congress meets.

ORDER! ORDER!

The Labour benches yesterday threw themselves into paroxysms of rage when the Prime Minister began her answer to a question from Mr Neil Kinnock by saying that "the right honourable gentleman takes his instructions from the ANC...". At a superficial glance, it might well seem an observation which was somewhat provocative and outside the limits of conventional parliamentary manners.

Yet if Mr Kinnock's words are examined for their precise significance, the Prime Minister's remark, though later withdrawn, seems far from uncalculated. It could, indeed, be regarded as a pertinent response to a loaded question.

Mr Kinnock had begun by asking Mrs Thatcher how, when Mr Nelson Mandela says that sanctions must stay, she could possibly think she knew better. To this she answered that Mr Mandela had made a number of other statements in his first speech with which she also disagreed, including his approval of the armed struggle; and she noted approvingly the different tone, and the stress on peaceful negotiations, in his later press conference. Her view was that just as it had been right to apply minor sanctions to show disapproval of apartheid, so it was now right to remove them to encourage President de Klerk in ending apartheid.

Mr Kinnock came back with the remark that "to insist that she knows better than Nelson Mandela is absurd." It is hard to interpret this in any other way than that, in Mr Kinnock's view, if Mrs Thatcher's own bona fide judgement is that sanctions should be eased, and Mr Mandela's is to the contrary, then the British Prime Minister should suspend her own judgement and defer to Mr Mandela's.

If this is not a requirement that British policy on sanctions should take its line from

the ANC, it is hard to see what meaning the Labour leader's words had. Nevertheless, Mrs Thatcher replaced the offending words with the simple statement that she herself did not take instructions from the ANC and with a list of issues, from the armed struggle to nationalization, on which she disagreed and Labour agreed with the ANC — which only reduced Labour to uproar again.

Now that President de Klerk has moved so far against apartheid it is at least right that the international community should discuss the best way to encourage him. Mrs Thatcher was able to tell the Commons yesterday that the Irish Prime Minister, Mr Haughey (who is at present in the chair of the European Community) had acknowledged in a letter that it is right for the EC to discuss sanctions at its next meeting — though he has not concealed his own view that they should stay.

Foreign leaders differ significantly on sanctions. (Mrs Thatcher could point out that Mr Bush does not think they are the answer but is bound by Congress legislation). In any case, the Prime Minister made clear that the sanctions she spoke of easing are those voluntary ones for which Britain alone is responsible, not those imposed under international agreement either by the EC or the UN.

This is not a matter for emotional and impulsive reactions based on the hero-worship of Mr Mandela, whose precise position within the ANC remains to be clarified. Rational and considered assessment of the probable consequences of any action is essential. It would be reassuring to think that this would be the mood of the debate which Labour has arranged for today. The likelihood, alas, is that as so often happens, Labour will let its head be governed not just by its heart but by its gut.

Wider horizon for the Scouts

From Lady Polwarth
Sir, Having been involved with the Girl Guide movement since 1939, when I was enrolled as a Guide (and subsequently as a Guide, Brown Owl, Brownie, and local association chairman), I was most interested to hear of the Scouts' decision to admit girls to their troops (report, February 9).

My first reaction was "why not?" After all, as your own feature pointed out, the girls who invaded the Crystal Palace rally 80 years ago wanted to be Scouts. They were fobbed off with an equally important role of their own — being called after a cavalry regiment who carried a *guidon*, or standard. The original *Corps des Guides* were Napoleon's personal bodyguard.

Girls have always wanted to do the same things as boys, and Lord Baden-Powell recognised this when he based the original Girl Guide programme on his book *Scouting for Boys*, with suitably feminine variations.

But although they want to do the same things as boys, at a certain age, they often prefer to do them with other girls. Both boys and girls welcome a respite from each other, from time to time — men and women often feel the same!

By all means let our younger feminists join Scout troops if they want to; but I would venture to predict that the majority of girls will prefer to stay in their Girl Guide companies, where, in the words of Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, they can "face the world on equal terms with men, and be trained and equipped to cope with whatever emergencies might arise".

My own boast is that I acquired far more of my "education" in the Girl Guides than I ever learnt at my expensive school!
Yours faithfully,
JEAN POLWARTH,
Harden,
Hawick, Roxburghshire,
February 10.

From Mr J. M. Meade
Sir, In your leader of February 10, you unwittingly put your finger on one great drawback to mixed scouting. You say "boys are now taught to cook"; but cooking was always important in scouting.

In mixed troops there will be a tendency for the boys to expect the camp cooking to be done by the girls — boys will be boys, whatever the theories — in fashion among adults. In this and other ways the introduction of girls in any numbers will undermine one of the main aims of scouting for boys, the teaching of self-reliance.

Yours sincerely,
J. M. MEADE,
Manor Farm House,
Hedenham, Bungay, Suffolk,
February 12.

Telecom complaint

From Mr and Mrs George Glover
Sir, British Telecom has announced pre-tax profits of £695 million for the three months to end December — an 11.6 per cent increase on the same quarter a year ago.

We are elderly subscribers needing the telephone for communication. We have two telephones, one upstairs and one down, and we have had a bell in the hall for about 15 years as old age has its hearing problems.

We note we pay for the rental system and rental apparatus £13.35 and £8 respectively each quarter. Surely this is an area where the Consumer Council could investigate. We feel we are being overcharged.

Yours truly,
GEORGE GLOVER,
JOAN GLOVER,
Merlign, Eynsford Road,
Farnham, Kent,
February 9.

Recalling Lord Peter

From Mrs Marianne van Hoven
Sir, A recent re-reading of *Gaudy Night* by Dorothy Sayers reminded me that 1990 marks the centenary of the birth of Lord Peter Wimsey — an occasion which appears to have been overlooked in the usual anniversary lists.

What, I wonder, would be an appropriate way of celebrating the life of this distinguished detective/musician/gourmet/bibliophile, whose career has continued to give so much pleasure to so many, including —
Yours faithfully,
MARIANNE VAN HOVEN,
Point House,
Litcham,
King's Lynn, Norfolk,
February 5.

Embryo research

From the Reverend Dr N. M. de S. Cameron

Sir, In your report on the House of Lords vote on deleterious embryo research (February 9) it is suggested that a context has been set for the forthcoming and decisive Commons debate in the spring. If MPs are to assess the significance of the Lords decision they need to see it in the broader context offered by international discussion of the new reproductive technology.

The specialist committee which reports to the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe recently published its recommendations on this range of issues, and — bringing together expert opinion from not only the 23 member

Punishment of young offenders

From Mr Tom White
Sir, As you rightly indicate in your editorial (February 7), the main thrust of the Government's proposals to reduce the prison population is welcome. Extending the age range of the juvenile court to include 17-year-olds and suggesting the abolition of custody for girls under 18 especially so.

Over the last decade the fall in juveniles sent to prison has been dramatic — with no escalation in crime rates. Despite the punishment rhetoric, a national consensus exists that the most positive way of keeping young people out of trouble is to strengthen supports at home and in the community. This could not have happened without effective co-operation between voluntary and statutory agencies locally, supported in 1983 by £15 million of central government funding.

The challenge now is to ensure that the lessons of the juvenile experience help reduce the one-in-five in prison aged between 17 and 20 years. Much has already been achieved but more must be done by the Home Office. First, a cautioning circular should be issued to local police forces to divert more young adults from court (as exists for juveniles). Second, more new alternatives to custody projects should be supported.

A pilot project by the National Children's Home in Leeds is already having a considerable impact. Latest Home Office figures show that in the second half of 1989 34 per cent of 17 to 20-year-olds who appeared in crown courts were sent to prison in West Yorkshire compared with 48 per cent in 1988.

If this impetus is to be maintained Government must provide funding on the same scale as for the juvenile initiative. When custody costs up to £375 per prisoner per week — as opposed to up to £100 on a community alternative — it is hard to see how it can afford not to.
Yours faithfully,
TOM WHITE,
(Director of Social Work),
National Children's Home,
85 Highbury Park, N5,
February 9.

German unity

From Mr James Clark
Sir, Mr Concor Cruise O'Brien ("Russia's German dilemma" February 9), sees danger for Mr Gorbachov in Russian nationalists who "are opposed to any kind of German unity". I think one should look more deeply into factors which underlie relations historically between Russia and Germany.

The economic energy of Germans has always galloped, and also fascinated, Russians. When Germany was rich, Russia went shopping there. When Russia needed development, she imported Germans. Perhaps they still need each other.

That was what Rapallo, 1922 (the treaty of cooperation between the Weimar Republic and the young Soviet Union) was all about. I suggest that "Neo-Rapallism" is a policy for which Russian nationalists will be glad to give Mr Gorbachov support — for the sake of Russia's economic development. A joined-up Germany would be essential for such a policy.

I even dare, so far as a non-Russian may, to suspect that Russians are not really afraid of Germany; they know that no one (not in 1812, not in 1941) has been able to destroy Russia. But it is always useful to let the world think they are.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
JAMES CLARK,
3 Warwick Mansions,
Fond Street, NW3,
February 9.

Canal flooding

From Mr Michael D. Oakley
Sir, The severe flooding that has followed the recent storms arises in some part today from the improved land drainage that exists across our countryside. Rivers rise and fall very much faster than in previous decades. The effect of this is felt very much by old lock structures built in the 18th century by engineers who I am certain anticipated heavy rainfall but not the rapid rise of flood water that exists today.

Where locks, such as Linton in North Yorkshire, are not currently supported by Government funding through the British Waterways Board, lock commissioners find it increasingly difficult to ensure that these structures, designed in an age which did not have the benefit of improved land drainage, are repaired to a high standard to withstand the forces of the modern flood and in order that the navigation can be maintained.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL D. OAKLEY (Clerk to the Linton Lock Commissioners),
4 Old Maltongate,
Malton, North Yorkshire,
February 12.

states of the council but significant jurisdictions outside — its recommendation on embryo research was that it should be banned.

Furthermore, it has generally been forgotten that the starting-point for our current discussion, the Warnock committee, was itself deeply divided; with seven of its 16 members signing dissents on the central question of whether embryos should be created for research use.

The central argument of these dissents was little in evidence in the Lords debate as you report it: that it is by no means necessary to be convinced of a particular view of the nature of the embryo (i.e. that it is a he or she, one of us) in order to be deeply uneasy about "research" — i.e., deleterious

I welcome your reminder to us of the reasons for the dramatic decline in the use of custody for juveniles in the 1980s, without any consequent rise in the level of juvenile crime. It is based upon effective supervision in the community and sentencing controls and not punishment and retribution.

I also welcome your reminder that, whilst the Government proposals are based upon the notion of just deserts for the offence committed, it would be wrong to neglect too much the offender. The White Paper itself says "Reforming offenders is always best if it can be achieved". Its stated aims for effective supervision in the community — the protection of the public, the prevention of reoffending, and the reintegration of the offender in society — appear to me to be a vote of confidence in the work of the probation service on which we can now hopefully build with certainty for the future.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE WORTHINGTON,
Chief Probation Officer,
Northumbria Probation Service,
Lifton House, Easington Road,
Jesmond,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
February 9.

From Mrs Barbara Prior
Sir, The Thames Valley Adventure Playground for physically and mentally handicapped children, of which I am the chairman, receives a regular supply of offenders who work their hours of community service at the playground. Our play leaders' time is obviously diverted from the job for which they were employed, when supervising the offenders.

We obviously benefit from the extra help and we are delighted to be able to offer the service and feel our efforts are worthwhile and rewarding; but as community service is a direct alternative to a prison sentence (which is a very costly alternative) I feel strongly that our contribution should be acknowledged by some form of Government grant.

We have an onerous task in raising the £40,000 p.a. to run the playground which is all raised by donations, fund-raising and £7,000 in Government grants. Should not the Government provide the necessary funds to acknowledge the effort and cost to the community?

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA PRIOR (Chairman),
Thames Valley Adventure
Playground Association,
Bath Road,
Taplow, nr Maidenhead,
Berkshire,
February 7.

The vice-chancellors sent their views to the press on Friday. I wrote before I had seen those views, to set out nine good reasons why repayment of student loans through National Insurance contributions would not be desirable. I did so in response to the suggestion from some vice-chancellors that such a letter would be helpful.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MACGREGOR,
Department of Education and Science,
Elizabeth House,
York Road, SE1,
February 13.

Litter lessons

From Mr Michael Kent
Sir, The Government is again trying to tackle the problem of litter and fines of £1,000 are proposed. What is the point unless the courts enforce payment and ignore cries of poverty?

There can be no excuse for littering and the courts should not accept excuses for non-payment. A few publicised cases of polluters spending some time in overcrowded prisons or understaffed community service might get the message across.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KENT,
Kingley Cottage,
West Stoke,
Chichester, West Sussex,
February 12.

Where credit's due

From Mr P. H. Nancarrow
Sir, The appearance of treachery in the credits lists (letters, January 10, 13, 15, 19, 25) or even as representative signatories is not confined to the Western world of the 20th century.

On January 19, AD 650, 7,700 bushels of rice, purchased as part of an official "intervention" scheme, were deposited in one of the storage pits of the Great Granary of the Chinese Empire at Chang'an.

As required by regulations, the deposit was recorded on an inscribed clay tablet, a later transcript of which survives, and the names of the responsible Civil Servants appended, from Wang Xuanrong, vice-president of the board of censors of the Daren Palace, down to Bu Ji, the vehicle inspector. Somehow, perhaps to make up the numbers, their names were joined in immortality by that of Zhang Agang — the storage-pit carpenter.

Yours faithfully,
P. H. NANCARROW,
1 Oakington Road,
Girton, Cambridge.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

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ON THIS DAY
1885

Further work was done for a few years. Between 1874 and 1876 the Mersey Tunnel scheme was taken up by several parties, but they failed to make any additional progress.

In 1879, Major Isaac and several gentlemen were induced to entertain the project, and on the 29th of December in that year the first sod from a shaft on the Liverpool side was turned by the company who is present position. This may be said to have set going the uninterrupted progress of the work, which went on quickly and satisfactorily. New engines at the shafts on either side of the river were started by the then Mayors of Birkenhead and Liverpool in October, 1881. At this time the two main shafts had been sunk over 170 feet, and the heading had been driven about 60 yards beyond the river wall.

The rock which had to be driven through was found to be hard and uniform. This condition of the rock greatly facilitated the excavations, and the operations progressed with encouraging rapidity. Up to February, 1882, the total distance excavated was 162 yards, and the water percolating through the rock was not so great as to interfere largely with the cutting.

In October, 1882, the Lord Mayor of London paid a visit to the tunnel and laid a memorial stone at the Liverpool entrance commemorating his visit. Further progress was reported at the half-yearly meeting of the company in March, 1883, when the chairman said that in the main tunnel, which was 20 feet wide and 21 feet high, 728 yards had been completed. It was also reported that the heading had been driven 40 to 50 yards a week. The machine got to work in April, 1883, and there is no doubt but that for this ingenious rock-cutter the connection between the two ends of the tunnel would not have been made as soon as it has been. From the time of excavation were sunk two shafts between the Liverpool side and the Cheshire side, and the works were stopped. Nothing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

"Now it's Grandpa's hour of need, thank heavens for the RAF Benevolent Fund"

From 1979 the Fund has been helping RAF members, their widows and children in financial difficulties. Last year over £1.5 million was raised to help 14,772 cases. Please help to repay the debt we owe those who have served on our behalf.

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND
Dept. 271 57 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1A 4AL

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Strathclyde University
Strathclyde University has become Britain's first member of the International Faculty for Artificial Organs (IFAO), an information exchange scheme on the emerging technology of artificial organ replacement. It is joining with institutions in East Germany, Italy, Belgium, Japan and the United States.

College of Medicine
College of Medicine from May 7, in succession to Professor Alistair Compton, who has been appointed to a chair at Cambridge.

Strirling
Mr John Riddy, formerly Strirling University's vacation letting controller, has been awarded the honorary degree of Master of the University by the Open University in Scotland, following his summer school at Stirling.

Wales
Dr M. W. Miles has been appointed professor of neurology in the University of Wales.

Scottish Episcopal Church
The Rev. C. H. Morrison, Assistant Secretary of the Scottish Episcopal Church, has been appointed to the post of Secretary of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

COMPLETION OF THE MERSEY TUNNEL

Yesterday a party of 400 or 500 Mersey Railway Company, acceptors of the invitation of the joint contractors for that work, Major Isaac of Edinburgh, and Messrs. W. & A. Mitchell of the Mersey Tunnel, completed the excavation of the last amounted to 330,000 cubic yards, all got out by hand.

THE MERSEY TUNNEL

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THE ARTS

SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

The silent geniuses

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

No one has done more than Kevin Brownlow to convince modern British audiences of the greatness of the silent cinema. The first of his new documentaries, *Harold Lloyd - The Third Genius* (Thames), proved as masterly as his previous studies of the other two, who were of course Chaplin and Keaton.

Brownlow painstakingly explored Lloyd's own archive to tell the story of the most neglected of the three great silent-screen farceurs. Lloyd was the only one who had not started out on vaudeville tours, and the only one to remain totally, if sometimes brutally, in charge of his own destiny.

A wealthy businessman, while Chaplin and Keaton were self-tutoring artists, Lloyd accepted his career crises cheerfully, retiring to a well-adjusted middle age. Lindsay Anderson narrates the second half at the same time next week, and you would be unwise to miss a study which is an object lesson in how Hollywood documentaries ought to be made but rarely are.

On BBC1, Michael Billington had an intelligent *Omnibus* profile of Alan Ayckbourn, designed to coincide with the opening tonight of a new West End play, Ayckbourn's 36th.

Billington seems drawn to theatrical figures prepared to say almost nothing about their private lives. But in this line Ayckbourn was at least more forthcoming than Billington's last subject, Peggy Ashcroft, even though he was only fleetingly told of the early marital collapse, which seems to have conditioned so much of his play-writing about the mutual incomprehension and loathing of married couples.

But Billington did persuade the most successful comic dramatist in history to open up his Scarborough home and explain some of the mechanics of his stage craft. To have got any more out of him would probably have required thumbscrews.

But along the way there were brief glimpses of a naughty middle-aged schoolboy delighting in having closed the National Theatre by flooding it, and also of an eccentric neurotic hiding half-finished scripts from burglars unlikely to want them anyway.

A sound investment

So the South Bank now has its resident orchestra. All we have to wonder about now is why they wanted one in the first place. Superficially the answer is clear: they wanted — or, to be more precise, Nicholas Snowman, their artistic director, wanted — a stronger voice in artistic policy than was exercised in former times, when orchestras were given financial inducements to play contemporary works but otherwise were left to present what they wanted.

However, what we have seen so far of Snowman's aesthetic programme, where orchestral concerts are concerned, has consisted almost entirely of single-composer retrospectives devoted to central 20th-century figures: Schoenberg, Messiaen, Ligeti and, soon to begin, Peter Maxwell Davies.

This is programming by numbers, and however fascinating and animated some of these festivals have been, there is the obvious problem, quite apart from the small amount of imagination needed to get each massive enterprise in train, that one soon runs out of the big names.

Given that the BBC and the Barbican have already thrown the spotlight on Stockhausen, Birtwistle, Boulez, Kurtág, Berio and Schnittke, it is hard to see where anyone will find major living composers to honour. One simply cannot expect there to be too many great composers around at any given time — if, indeed, there are any in these confused times.

Besides, the problems of presenting 18th-century and 19th-century orchestral music have hardly begun to be tackled. Already the 18th century has been taken over almost entirely by specialist orchestras, whether conventional (English Chamber Orchestra, Academy of St Martin) or fundamentalist (Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, London Classical Players). And attacks have been made as far forward as Berlioz and Schumann. The pressure is on symphony orchestras to restrict themselves to a repertoire beginning with Strauss and Mahler (and there is perhaps room for an Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment to specialize in music from, say, 1880 to 1940), or else to find an alternative way to present Mozart and Beethoven, and even Bach, in the late 20th century.

This is perhaps the most urgent



Harrison Birtwistle (left) revealed new orchestral possibilities; Pierre Boulez, the imaginative programmes

Paul Griffiths suggests that the new South Bank resident orchestra should explore new avenues and search for neglected composers and exciting works beyond the classical pops

question facing the resident orchestra, and its solution will depend of course on finding conductors, and in particular a music director, with some ideas about performance and programming. There is a model at hand: Simon Rattle, in performing Haydn with the CBSO or with the London Philharmonic itself, has shown how it is possible to learn from "authentic" practice within a standard orchestral style. His Birmingham programmes have shown what can happen when Mozart is brought up against Messiaen, Berio against Berlioz. A lot could be learned, too, from examining some of the programmes conducted by Boulez in the early 1960s, ranging from Mahaut to his own music with sublime disregard for specialization.

Of course, simply to reproduce the policy followed by Boulez and William Glock at the BBC 20 years ago, designed to put high modernism in relief, would be the dearest form of authenticity (and

is perhaps the greatest danger facing the South Bank). It would be to ignore all that has happened in the last three decades in terms of the decay of the notion of a "standard repertoire", to the extent where it no longer seems sufficient to mark musical history as a succession of great names. For instance, numerous recordings since the early 1970s have revived the music of Zemlinsky, Reger, Schmidt, Magagnoli and many others, but public performances in this country have continued to be exceedingly rare.

There must also be previously neglected composers from earlier in the 19th century waiting to be explored. Who, for instance, were the other Austro-German symphonists of the time of Brahms and Bruckner? Is there really nothing to be discovered in Spohr and Raff? And the dissolving of the canon also leaves us with a great deal of little-performed music by the much-

performed names: Schumann, Liszt, Stravinsky, Prokofiev and others. Then there are the 20th-century composers whose place is currently under review, or has been for some time: Hindemith, Honegger, Vaughan Williams, Koechlin.

Of course, there remains a large public that will cling to the standard repertoire, and it is hard to foresee a time when the Classical Top 20 does not consist almost exclusively of mainstream orchestral music, including three versions of the Elgar Cello Concerto and four of *The Planets*. The opportunity of the South Bank residency, however, should be to look at other possibilities: exploring new repertoire, learning new (and old) techniques, searching out composers who can change our minds about orchestral possibilities (and they still exist: witness Birtwistle and Berio), making imaginative programmes. Only in these ways will the orchestra find itself a life beyond that of rolling out the popular classics.

But these are just stray thoughts. Artistic policy ought to be decided by the artists who are going to implement it, and any prescriptions for the London Philharmonic must be hypothetical until a new music director is appointed.

Laid-back Lieder

CONCERT

Hilary Finch

Lynton Atkinson
Wigmore Hall

Lynton Atkinson left Cambridge seven years ago and has, at the age of 28, built up quite a career, mainly in concerts, oratorio and baroque opera, to which his clean, dapper and intelligent tenor is doubtless well suited. On the evidence of his Monday recital, Lynton has not been a major preoccupation; and his winning of the Richard Tauber Prize, for which the recital was awarded, remains something of a mystery.

Leaning back on the piano, he sang Schumann's Op 39 *Liederkreis* with a light elegance, worthy of an Edwardian drawing-room. Reluctant to yield too much to Eichendorff's *grassen glück*, the great joy which Schumann sets beating and breathing through his cycle, Atkinson distanced himself as if too much indication of response would be almost an embarrassment.

With no attempt to colour the voice or to modulate its timbre, his only expressive implement was tempo. A loss of speed without any darkening of tone does not necessarily make for the onset of melancholy.

Atkinson needs to spend far longer with Lieder, with the voices of its tradition, its literature, its language, its entire imaginative world. His French *mélodies* after the interval only reinforced the point. For here, the voice and approach (and, indeed, Geoffrey Prattley's accompaniment) changed little.

Atkinson's near-flawless breath control and clear enunciation came into their own; but again he seemed unwilling to anticipate and imaginatively project the emotional colour and context of any given word or phrase. Fauré's "Mandolin" bypassed the joy of the ecstasy of its serenaders; his "C'est l'extase" was deaf to the sensual potential of every passing vowel.

As the word-setting itself became more animated in Poulenc and Falla, Atkinson's own performance found new vivacity; though only in the Italian songs which began and ended the recital did any real sense of style begin to mould his voice into a distinctive profile.

Missing the storm

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Fayyaz Virji

ICA

Whenever the Jazz Warriors big band goes on the road, Fayyaz Virji can be relied on to come up with some of the strongest compositions. A member of the Latin group Cayenne, the Tanzanian-born trombonist has an instinctive grasp of African, Latin and mainstream influences.

The group he is taking on tour for Jazz Services continues in that vein. With two veterans, Jim Mullen and Ernest Motile, providing backbone on guitar and bass, and with Ian Shaw on vocals, the band ought to be taking audiences by storm. What is lacking at the moment is the sense of passion and adventure that makes the Warriors' performances — even the bad ones — worth watching.

A thoughtful soloist, Virji makes maximum use of the



Fayyaz Virji: thoughtful soloist

trombone's limited range. But he is a diffident leader, seemingly reluctant to stamp his personality on the proceedings. For too much of the evening, the musicians were allowed to cruise along, making a competent, but prosaic, job of "Serengeti" and Chris McGregor's "Jeanie". The ascetic atmosphere of the ICA gave them little encouragement.

The mood was transformed when Shaw stepped into the limelight; most of the time he was confined to ineffectual scat accompaniment. Given his head on his own blues number "Teach Me To Dream", he gave us his remarkable white soul impersonation of an Al Green confessional.

One cannot easily imagine Alice Walker's novel *Meridian* being snapped up by Steven Spielberg and transformed into a bumper movie, as her *Color Purple* was. This time, her treatment of American black history would seem too unromantic, too inner, and maybe also too radical.

Somewhere at its centre is a question unlikely to appeal either to Hollywood moguls or to the popcorn-chewers in the audience: should the civil rights activists of the Sixties and Seventies have listened less to Martin Luther King, and more to Malcolm X and his gun-toting ilk?

That is certainly a living dilemma for *Meridian*, the sane, balanced and therefore well-named protagonist of Walker's book and Cindy Ariste's stage adaptation in Manchester. She joins in choruses of "We will overcome" outside a Southern police station, and joins a sit-in in one of those diners that seem to have been purpose-built for inbred rednecks with a taste for stale doughnuts and disgusting coffee. She gets doused with ketchup, beaten, imprisoned — and still she goes on, doggedly turning frightened, uninterested or sceptical blacks into involved citizens.

"What good is the voice? We don't own anything," shrugs one

Mandela-style black dilemma

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Meridian

Contact, Manchester

of the many characters that Paullette Randall's over-stretched cast somehow manages plausibly to embody. It is the sort of question that begins to rattle round the head of Clare Perkins's quietly troubled *Meridian*, especially since some of her friends are talking of revolution, donning para-military outfits, and persuading her that non-violence is ineffective. "Maybe I could sort of grow into the idea of killing people," she says meditatively; but cannot and does not.

Events in a continent some way south-east of the United States continue to prove her conflict a representative one. There must be hundreds of *Meridians*, conscientious and well educated black

women, wondering how far their support of the African National Congress should go. And for each of them the answer will be confused by personal hang-ups, as is evidently the case with Walker-Ariste's protagonist, who begins the evening by abandoning her child and afterwards seems never either free of guilt or able to form a satisfactory relationship.

Her internal intricacies are not, however, altogether easy to make clear and comprehensible on stage. Indeed, coherence is neither the adaptor's nor the director's outstanding quality. It is doubtless fine for dialogue to become narrative; it may be all very well for scenes to hurtle by, with only occasional time-signals ("John Kennedy wasn't the first and I don't suppose he'll be the last") and map-references indicating that we are, say, in 1964 or New York.

But the result can seem cursory and sometimes bewildering. You should read the book if you want to understand the full import of



Clare Perkins: dignity, humility

the key moment in which a giant magnolia tree, the kind in which escaped slaves used to hide, is yanked down by a turbulent civil-righter to the sound of spectral wailing and keening.

But the fact that the production needs work does not alter the initiative and courage Manchester's Contact Theatre has shown in presenting what is, it seems, the stage premiere of Walker's novel. Nor should it lessen one's admiration for some capable acting, notably from Perkins herself, whose dignity, humility and self-possession never dwindle into priggishness, smugness, coldness or any such spoiling emotion. She is an actress worth watching.

Brutish, but kitsch

OPERA

Stephen Pettitt

The Rape of Lucretia
Britten Theatre, RCM

The major surprise of Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, for all its allusions to sacred forms, is the revelation at the end that Lucretia's self-sacrifice has been a symbol of that of Christ himself. For this listener it is a jarring, even disappointing allusion (surely Lucretia's greater sacrifice would have been to live with herself?), but Ceri Sherlock's production for the Royal College's splendid small team makes all too much of it. A huge, dilapidated mosaic in Byzantine style depicting Christ's head forms the backdrop to the closing scene, while a kitsch statue of the Blessed Virgin is paraded on stage with mistimed symbolism even before the heroine administers her fatal wound.

These are extravagant visual elements in the context of an austere drama, otherwise austere produced. It does not help that the final scene also includes the parading of the other major props, apparently alabaster statues of two entwined figures and Tarquinius's horse, that function as strong visual focuses in earlier scenes. If any symbol were needed, a simple wooden cross would have been more effective.

The cast first presents itself dressed in dapper, dark suits, helping to ignite the dynamic interplay between the cool ritualism of the work and the raw

emotions it deals with. To maintain contact between stage and audience, the Male and Female Chorus stay dressed thus, while Collatinus and Junius don drapes over white, sporty outfits; only the savage, long-haired Etruscan, Tarquinius, looks every inch the part, barefoot and in toga.

For the most part the acting is remarkably fluent, and there are some strong, attractive voices on display. Guy Harbottle is a properly brutish, headstrong Tarquinius, with a full, mature voice that perhaps needs working on at the top of its register. Howard Croft is superb as Junius, mocking, haranguing, trouble-making (though why he alone appears in a hideous scarlet suit at the end is beyond me), and Graham Case's Collatinus is steadfast in its devotion.

As Blanca, Frances Jellard at first showed signs of nerves, but had no need; hers is a particularly rich contralto and she acts well. Rosemary Joshua's Lucia is properly pert and anxious, with a brilliant edge to the tone, while Hilary Brooks's Lucretia exudes musical and dramatic sensitivity and confidence. Essentially binding the opera together, however, are Jill-Maria Marsden and Paul McCann, the Female and Male Chorus. Both are admirably forthright in voice and gesture as they narrate, or emotive upon, these disturbing events. There is some excellent, crisp work from the RCM Opera Orchestra, a mere 13 players here, directed purposefully by Michael Rosewell. More performances tonight, Friday and Monday.

John Higgins

Don Pasquale
Covent Garden

The sparkling and smooth-flowing revival of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* at Covent Garden is a reminder of how much opera lost with the all too early death of Jean-Pierre Ponnelle two years ago. It will not be too long before his staging comes up to its twentieth birthday, but under the guiding hand of a regular associate, Grigori Asagoroff, it almost looks as though it were born yesterday.

Ponnelle's own designs — a sunlit Roman rooftop for Norina's delight, a moonlit garden of cypress trees for her romance with Ernesto — remain handsome. His inventions stay fresh, including the sad cornet player (straight from a Musicians Benevolent Fund ad) plucked from the orchestra to introduce Ernesto's Act II lament. And Covent Garden has a quartet of principals, all new to their roles in this house, selected with care and delicately weighted against one another.

Paolo Montarsolo in the title role is in much richer voice than in Rossini's *L'italiana* two years ago. The shadow of Geraint Evans inevitably and rightly hangs over Don Pasquale in this house. Montarsolo offers a much more weighty figure, with a jet black wig to match his tail coat for the wedding with "Sofronia". He is, as he himself remarks with pride, a lusty seventy year old. And his favourite cats, the mark of bachelordom which Ponnelle strewed around him, have been

New sparkle for Pasquale revival



Astute performance: renowned coloratura on full display, the lovely Kathleen Battle sings her first Norina

thinned out. It takes Sofronia's slap across the face to make him feel his age.

It is the one moment when Donizetti pushes below surface emotion. Kathleen Battle, singing her first Norina, shows that persecution of an old man has gone too far. It is an astute performance, with the renowned Battle coloratura on full display with every note hit dead centre. The voice is not large, but it has been nicely matched against the tenor of Raul Gimenez, equally forward and accurate, as Ernesto. Together they draped their notes around one another's in "Tornami a dir" to perfection. With such liquid singing it is no surprise Pasquale was ready to bless their marriage and retire to his deckchair with a drink.

Thomas Allen made Malatesta sound a bit high for him in the opening act, but prompted by Montarsolo's assurance he grew into the part — a Victorian officer, with a hint that he might be castrated any day, who has strayed into Roman society. Bruno Campanella, another

house debut, more than justified his European reputation as an expert Donizetti conductor. There was every support for the singers, to establish themselves before he let his orchestra a little off the reins. All in all this *Pasquale* is in the hands of a most expert team. Catch it and enjoy it.

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BRENDA LUCAS · GORDON · FERGUS · THOMPSON
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BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA
ELGAR OGDON LISZT CHOPIN RACHMANINOV
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But what are you doing staring at BUBBLES, shouldn't you be gazing into each other's eyes?

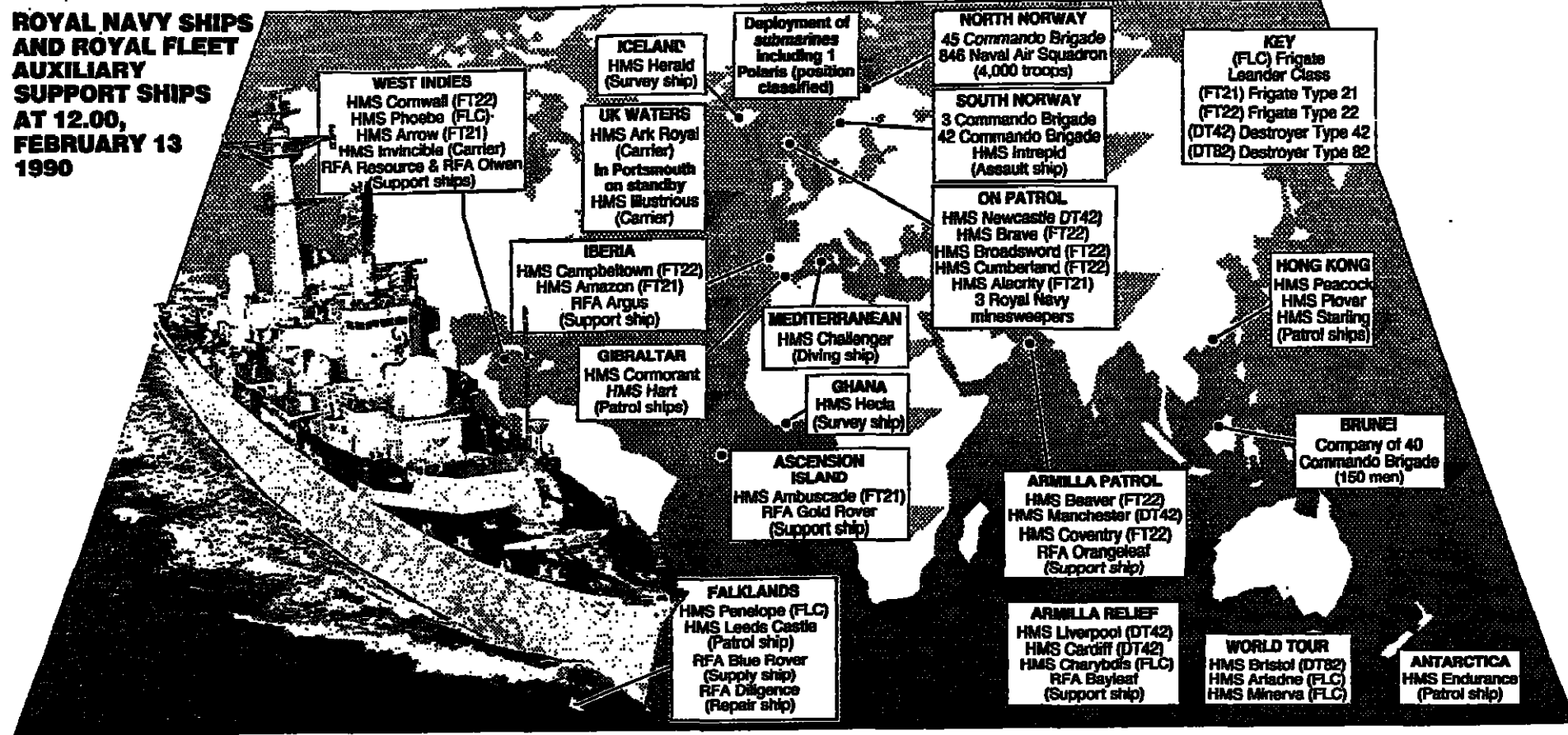
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[illegible]

Navy lifts secrecy to reveal its global role

ROYAL NAVY SHIPS
AND ROYAL FLEET
AUXILIARY SHIPS
AT 12.00,
FEBRUARY 13
1990



By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy had 36 surface warships and support vessels with more than 7,000 men on board away from UK waters and dotted around the globe yesterday, according to an exclusive, declassified chart of Fleet deployments.

The presence of Royal Navy ships in many parts of the world, some on exercise, some on visits and others on operational patrol, highlights continuing global commitments.

Although it is Royal Navy practice not to give the locations of warships abroad, navy chiefs agreed to lift the secrecy to demonstrate how even today, with defence budgets being stretched to the limit, the Fleet was still spread around the world. Only nuclear-powered and diesel-electric submarines are excluded from the chart. Other ships

not shown are in home waters, in refit or in maintenance.

The chart shows that HMS Invincible, the flagship aircraft carrier, with 1,800 men on board, was yesterday on exercise in the West Indies with the US Navy, supported by two Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, *Resource* and *Owen*.

HMS Ark Royal, the second of three carriers, was on standby reserve in Portsmouth. As part of the Government's future defence plans, a decision will have to be made about the carrier.

At present only two stay at sea, while the third remains in dock. If the Government decides to keep three carriers, a decision will need to be taken in about five years to build a replacement for one of the ships, probably HMS *Illustrious*.

Of the 36 Royal Navy and Royal

The Government is to use the wartime airfield of the famous RAF Lancaster Bomber for a special unit, set up to monitor arms cuts in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe (Michael Evans writes).

Britain's Joint Arms Control Implementation Group, which will comprise 270 treaty verification inspectors and Russian speakers, is to be based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, now the home of the Red Arrows aerobatic team. The special unit will officially start work only when Nato and Warsaw Pact countries successfully complete the Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna.

Fleet Auxiliary ships in foreign waters yesterday, 16 were frigates and destroyers. They included HMS *Ambuscade*, a frigate off Ascension

Island, HMS *Penelope*, a frigate in the Falklands, the Gulf's "Armilla Patrol" deployment of HMS *Beaver*, a frigate, HMS *Manchester*, a Type 42 destroyer, and HMS *Coventry*, a frigate (on her way back to the Gulf from Singapore), and HMS *Campbeltown*, a frigate, with HMS *Amazon*, a frigate, off Portugal.

As Government ministers, as well as the central and policy staffs of the Ministry of Defence, study the options for future force structures, the Royal Navy is not expected to emerge unscathed. Yet it is probably the one service which will not suffer any dramatic cutback either in assets or in commitments.

This year, too, the Government has to make decisions affecting the Royal Marines. Ministers have stated that the Government is committed to retaining an amphibious capability. But both HMS

Intrepid, the Royal Marines' assault ship which was sister ship South Norway, and her sister ship HMS *Fearless*, in refit, will have to be replaced or refurbished. The Ministry is expected to announce a decision later this year. A further announcement is due on the possible purchase of an aviation support ship, a helicopter-lift vessel for the Royal Marines, to replace HMS *Hermes* which was sold to India.

A third announcement, due in the early summer, will be an order for another Vanguard class submarine for the new Trident ballistic missile deterrent. This will bring to three the number of Trident submarines under construction.

Royal Navy sources insist that four Trident submarines, replacing the *Polaris* fleet, will be necessary to guarantee that one will be on patrol each day of the year.

Political sketch

Blue murder on an average day

"This," observed Mr Speaker yesterday, "was the worst Questions it has been my unhappy duty to preside over." Your sketchwriter agrees. The place went berserk over Mandela.

Mr Kinnoch started it. Labour has elevated Nelson Mandela into a sort of black Nye Bevan: simply to discover Mandela's opinion on any great question is to know one's own.

Mandela, he said, wanted sanctions to stay. So "how can the Prime Minister think she knows better than him?" Now Mandela is just one of a long list of people Mrs Thatcher thinks she knows better than.

The Labour leader was outraged. It was "arrogant and absurd," he said, "to think she knows better than Nelson Mandela." She was "turning her back" on him.

"The Right Hon. gentleman," retorted Mrs Thatcher, "is perhaps taking his instructions from the ANC."

Now, on cool reflection, it is hard to see that remark as outside the rough-and-tumble limits of acceptable parliamentary abuse. Almost daily, Labour accuses Mrs Thatcher of taking her orders from the City. Mr Kinnoch is routinely accused of taking his orders from the TUC.

And nor is the ANC—in Mr Kinnoch's philosophy—a bad crowd. Would it be an insult to accuse an MP of taking his orders from the Mothers' Union? *Erskine May* is silent on the point.

But Labour went crazy. A howling like of which has seldom been heard, even in this most unruly of places, began. "Ooh!" they shouted, and "Ahh!" and "Withdraw!"

"This," observed Mr Speaker, "is a very disorderly Prime Minister's Questions." Mrs Thatcher did withdraw. What she meant, she said, was that the ANC stood for all sorts of things—like "the armed struggle" and "nationalizing almost every part of economic life"—so did we assume that Labour agreed with those too?

The din broke out again. The Liberals' Paddy Ashdown made it worse. Mrs Thatcher, he said, was a "lonely voice." She had not consulted our allies.

Matthew Parris

"Ooh! Aah! Answer that!" they yelled.

Mrs Thatcher is not averse to being a lonely voice. She looked flustered, and gave a lecture about where Britain could act unilaterally, and where not.

Added, the Archbishop of Canterbury thought that some sanctions might now be relaxed as a "measure of encouragement" to Mr de Klerk. This is the first known case of Dr Runcie being cited in support of a Thatcher viewpoint.

Now the uproar moved up a gear. "If," began Labour's Joan Ruddock, "the Prime Minister had just spent 27 years in prison..."

"As she should," said the Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Foreign Secretary.

Tories went bananas. "Ooh!" they shrieked, "Withdraw! Shame! Shame!"

The fair lady to whose aid these knights of the shires had rushed looked less than distressed. Mrs Thatcher, in fact, grinned a grin which seemed to say: "Just an average sort of Tuesday, really: internationally isolated, universally reviled, and jailed for 27 years..." But that didn't stop her supporters. They howled blue murder.

So Mrs Thatcher decided to stir things up a bit. "I do not think sanctions have achieved anything," she observed, then repeated it for good measure.

A sort of communal gulp gripped Labour for a microsecond, then the baying resumed, but louder...

And here I must leave you. Are you in the picture now? Labour is claiming that sanctions have secured a major objective—and should therefore be used to smash the fellow they have brought to the negotiating table. The Tories are claiming that sanctions haven't brought President de Klerk to the negotiating table, and should therefore be used (by their selective withdrawal) to "encourage" him further. The Archbishop of Canterbury (who isn't there) thinks they're both right. And the whole lot of them (but not the Archbishop) are howling fit to bring the roof down.

"This," wailed Mr Speaker, "sounds awful!" it was.

Modrow is forced to bow to Kohl over currency

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Steps towards reunification of Germany begin next week when a committee of experts meets to prepare the way for currency union. The move was agreed with not a little bitterness here yesterday by Herr Hans Modrow, the stand-in East German Prime Minister, when Chancellor Helmut Kohl made him an offer he could not afford to refuse.

The Chancellor had clearly dictated terms during his face-to-face session with Herr Modrow, who knows that he will be lucky to survive in government after the free elections in his country on March 18.

The one sore point which Herr Modrow successfully

prodded was the Chancellor's refusal so far to accept unconditionally the Oder-Neisse line as the western border of Poland. Herr Kohl immediately responded by saying:

Euro-MPs dismayed...8
Binding ties...14
Leading article...15

that this was something only the united parliament of a united Germany could do.

Herr Kohl also made it clear that nothing would be done without the fullest consultation with the four victorious Second World War allies.

He had offered East Germany the security of the Deutschmark. In return he demanded the end of the

communist planned economy and the introduction of a free market economy.

Herr Modrow did his best to erase the picture, painted by the Chancellor, of a land that was bankrupt and which 85,000 of his countrymen had already deserted this year for the West. With a scarcely veiled attack on what he saw as a host too snug for his liking, he said it would only be after the March 18 election that the Volkskammer would decide what kind of economic community it wanted to negotiate.

Herr Modrow had already asked for DM 15 billion (£5.3 billion) in emergency aid, but he left with only the medical and humanitarian help already given.

Sanctions uproar in the Commons

Thatcher defends her stand

Continued from page 1

heard the House behave in this kind of way at Prime Minister's Questions Time.

Amid bitter Labour protests and a gentle prompt from Mr Weatherill, Mrs Thatcher made the rare concession of withdrawing her remark, then further enraging the Opposition by making the same point in a more parliamentary way.

The ANC stands for comprehensive economic sanctions, so does the Labour Party; it stands for armed struggle, so, apparently, does the Labour Party," she said.

Government sources later disclosed that Mrs Thatcher had based her accusation on remarks made by Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Foreign Secretary, on Saturday night. The sources quoted Mr Kauf-

man as saying that only when Mr Mandela and the ANC said sanctions should be removed, should Britain consider it.

Mr Kaufman had his revenge yesterday, delighting Labour MPs by insisting that Mrs Thatcher, not Mr Mandela, deserved 27 years in prison. Ministers immediately demanded Mr Kaufman's ejection from the chamber, but Mrs Thatcher saw the funny side of his claim.

More highly charged exchanges are expected today in an emergency Opposition debate on the Government's policy on South Africa.

The Prime Minister yesterday also confirmed reports that she had been dismayed by Mr Mandela's speech after his release in which he reaffirmed support for the "armed strug-

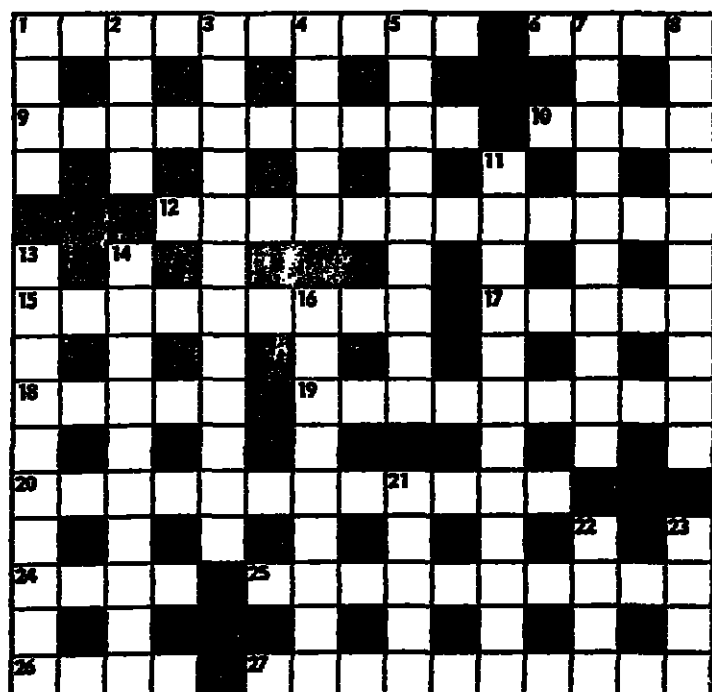
gle." She described this as a "ritual" performance and suggested that his later remarks to the press were "very much better and more peaceful".

Her critical comments came as her invitation to Mr Mandela to visit Britain was delivered to him by the British Embassy in Pretoria.

Mr Kinnoch asked how, when Mr Mandela said that sanctions must stay as an essential pressure for change, the Prime Minister could think she knew better than the ANC leader.

It was "arrogant and absurd" of her to lay claim to greater wisdom than Mr Mandela. By turning her back on the one request he had made to her and the international community, she was turning her back on him, the Labour leader said.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,217



- ACROSS
- Silly fool's crime, being full of pranks (10).
 - The European doctor and writer (6).
 - Clown put on stage by English finance house (10).
 - 21's immediate successor, slowing things down when blocking? (4).
 - Carry the old woman inside — one found by an old African (12).
 - Administration's inadvertent mistake (9).
 - Crossing river, we finally get the bird (5).
 - Shoot the young man! (5).
 - Railway which, in Paris, interrupts one at a feast (9).
 - Protest about Scotsman's paralytic state (12).
- DOWN
- Smith the barrister defending a male celebrity (4).
 - Work for star leaving prison? Quite the opposite (4).
 - Uncompromising, if fashionable, art upset poor Tenzing (12).
 - Drunkard pinching sailor's shoe (5).
 - Island fellow with headgear of yellow-brown colour (9).
 - Beuter to give girl note about the soldiers (10).
 - Sudden aberration of supporter in disturbance (10).
 - Sounds as if there's greater leverage with this system of payment (4-8).
 - The kind one encountered in the county miners' association (10).
 - Magic may concern dubious characters (10).
 - Negotiator's turn to speculate? Very little point (2-7).
 - High mark obtained by some medical pharmacologists (5).
 - The right man to act as the beak? (4).
 - She finds feast repellent (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,216

POWDERMONKEY
J R O S A E P
AMOROUS CHALICE
G C P E A R S T
OTTOMAN WRESTLE
B O A Y T S L R
S I R E N I N T E R W E E N
L A I E I L
A G R O P H I L E P I L O N
B E A T A T A B I T A
E I G U N I L O I
R A M P A N T G L I S T E N
N E T O L S E G
K N E E R E F E S H E S

Tomorrow: Eliminator puzzle for London competitors in 1990 Crossword Championship

WEATHER

A bright, frosty start for many areas, in spite of wintry showers on western coasts and hills. Heaviest and most frequent showers will be in north-west Scotland. By evening, all but northern Scotland will see rain, preceded by sleet or snow over northern England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Heavy rain in the south will be driven by rising winds, and a stormy night is in prospect. Outlook: showers, sleet and snow.

ABROAD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	15-20	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Amman	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Baghdad	15-20	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Bombay	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Buenos Aires	15-20	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Calcutta	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Cairo	15-20	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Colon	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Hong Kong	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
London	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Madras	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Manila	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Medan	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Mumbai	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Perth	15-20	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Rangoon	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Seoul	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Singapore	25-30	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Tokyo	15-20	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Yokohama	15-20	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Manchester	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Edinburgh	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Belfast	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Cardiff	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Exeter	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Gloucester	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Leeds	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Liverpool	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Newcastle	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Nottingham	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Sheffield	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Southampton	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Stirling	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	
Wolverhampton	10-15	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

CATAPLASM

a. A major flood

b. A positive

c. A rash of blood to the head

OTARY

a. A sea-lion

b. A microphone

c. A cauliflower-eared

ANSATE

a. Fed up

b. Having a handle

c. Like a goose

QUIDDLE

a. A fesspot

b. The pound coin

c. The golden porcupine

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731

M-ways/roads M4-M1 732

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733

M-ways/roads M23-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

North Wales 744

North Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 0C (32F). Humidity: 60 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Bar: mean sea level, 6 in. 0.025 in. Hg. Wind: 1000-1500 mph.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Weymouth, Dorset, 14C (57F); lowest day temp: Exeter, Devon, 10C (50F). Highest night temp: Exeter, Devon, 8C (46F); lowest night temp: Exeter, Devon, 4C (39F). Wind: 1000-1500 mph.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 0C (32F). Humidity: 60 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Bar: mean sea level, 6 in. 0.025 in. Hg. Wind: 1000-1500 mph.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 0C (32F). Humidity: 60 per cent. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Bar: mean sea level, 6 in. 0.025 in. Hg. Wind: 1000-1500 mph.

WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London...701

Kent, Surrey, Sussex...702

Dorset, Devon & IOW...703

Devon & Cornwall...704

Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Somerset...705

Berk, Bucks, Oxon...706

Beds, Herts & Essex...707

Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs...708

West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent...709

Shrops, Herefords & Wores...710

Central Midlands...711

East Midlands...712

Lincoln & Humberside...713

Dyfed & Powys...714

Gloucestershire & Wiltshire...715

W & S Yorks & Dales...716

N & E England...717

Cumbria & Lakes District...718

S & W Scotland...719

W & N Scotland...720

Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders...722

E Central Scotland...723

Grampian & E Highlands...724

N & W Scotland...725

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6920 (-0.0040)
W German mark
2.8350 (+0.0044)
Exchange index
89.4 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1818.1 (+7.5)
FT-SE 100
2293.2 (+8.3)
USM (Datastream)
155.54 (-0.19)
Market report, page 28

Reuters to go into TV

Reuters, the international news agency, aims to expand its services to embrace television services for financial institutions, Mr Glen Renshaw, chief executive, said. It reported 1989 pre-tax profits up from £215.4 million to £233.1 million.

The final dividend is raised from 6.2p to 9.4p, payable on May 1, making 13p (9p), on earnings per share of 43.6p (32.1p). The shares rose 4p to £10.40.

Kalms move

Mr Richard Kalms, the son of Mr Stanley Kalms, the chairman of Dixons, the retailer, is leaving the firm to launch his own business.

Goodman deal

The Goodman video retail group is to change its name to the Video Store Group. It is purchasing 21 outlets and raising £5 million by rights issue.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2823.55 (+4.51)
Tel Aviv	Nikkei Average	37107.05 (-181.11)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2863.55 (-31.11)
London	FT-30	1818.1 (+7.5)
Frankfurt	DAX	1840.88 (-19.41)
Paris	CAC	509.45 (-8.75)
Zurich	SWX	610.9 (-1.9)
Amsterdam	AEX	1148.88 (+1.70)
Stockholm	OMX	1250.38 (+1.74)
Oslo	OSEX	328.8 (-15.4)
Stockholm	OMX	50.98 (-2.25)
Stockholm	OMX	61.11 (+0.22)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

ROSEBURY	9774p (+20p)
Guinness	6441p (+12p)
Ross	1685p (+12p)
Liberty	147p (+12p)
Antipol	5874p (+10p)
Johnston	3124p (-12p)
Eng China Clay	3854p (-25p)
Parfitt	435p (-51p)
Nr-Swift	4874p (-17p)
DAKS Simpson 'A'	4724p (-15p)
J. Mowlem	342p (-11p)
HMV Group	6294p (-15p)
Gestecor	207p (-13p)
Darwent Holdings	735p (-10p)
British Land	983p (-13p)
J. Smith	685p (-10p)
Peaterson	717p (-10p)
Christies Int	315p (-12p)
A. Cohen	850p (-25p)
Closing prices	24085
SEAQ Volume	436.4m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	15%
3-month interbank	15%-15.5%
3-month sterling bill	14%-14.5%
US Prime Rate	10%
3-month Treasury Bill	7.55-7.58%
30-year bonds	101.1-101.2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.6920
£/DM	2.8350
£/Sfr	2.5097
£/FF	6.5596
£/Yen	160.37
£/Lira	2.18
£/ECU	16.71916
£/ECU	16.71916

GOLD

London	New York
£/ounce	\$419.75
£/ounce	\$419.00
£/ounce	\$419.00
£/ounce	\$419.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar)	\$19.80/bbl (\$19.20)
Denmark latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Swiss	Swiss	Swiss
Australia	23.75	12.25
Belgium	62.25	52.25
Canada	11.25	12.75
Denmark	10.05	8.45
France	2.85	2.85
Germany	13.25	12.25
Greece	1.125	1.125
India	225	225
Japan	250	242
Malaysia	11.41	10.75
Netherlands	262.25	242.25
Portugal	13.25	12.25
Spain	162.25	172.25
Sweden	10.25	10.25
Switzerland	2.85	2.85
Turkey	4475	3875
USA	1.77	1.57
Yugoslavia	1.77	1.57

Joint statement after Stock Exchange pressure
Midland confirms talks with Hongkong Bank

By Neil Bennett, London, and Lulu Yu, Hong Kong

Midland Bank has given its strongest indication yet that it is contemplating a merger with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation after pressure from the Stock Exchange to declare its intentions.

The banks yesterday issued a joint statement in response to recent City speculation about an imminent tie-up. "Midland and Hongkong Bank," it said, "continue to develop their relationship and to discuss the form and nature of a closer business association."

The statement adds that the talks are in an early stage and "a further statement will follow, if appropriate." Officials at the Stock Exchange advised the banks to clarify the situation after they became worried that speculation about the merger was creating a false market in Midland's shares.

Recently there have been reports that Sir Kit McMahon, Midland's chairman, will make an important announcement about the situation with Hongkong Bank at the bank's preliminary figures next Wednesday.

The banks were at first unwilling to make a public statement but agreed after a Midland board meeting last Friday and Hongkong Bank's on Monday.

However, far from damping speculation of a merger, the statement has heightened beliefs that a deal could be announced by the year-end, although further revelations from Sir Kit next week are now thought unlikely. Midland's shares rose 4p to 369p.

Hongkong Bank and Midland first announced a link in November 1987, when HKB bought a 14.9 per cent stake in Midland. Then it made a standstill agreement for two years, which expires in December. However, this can be broken by mutual agreement.

Since then HKB has swapped most of its European operations for Midland's Asian branches, and bought Concord, Midland's finance house subsidiary, for £14.3 million.

More recently the two have started sharing out international corporate banking business. They have also set



Contemplating closer relationship: Sir Kit McMahon, the chairman of Midland Bank

up an executive exchange scheme, where up to 80 personnel and banking managers are being swapped on two-year secondments to learn the banks' respective systems.

An HKB official has also revealed that the two banks are now preparing to integrate parts of their information technology systems, as a step towards merger.

A joint committee is preparing a link between the automatic cash dispensers at Midland, Marine Midland in the US, and Hongkong Bank this year. Customers of any bank will be able to use dispensers around the world to draw out local currency.

This should pave the way for the rapid integration of the banks' trade finance systems and corporate data facilities.

Observers believe there is strong logic in a link between Midland and Hongkong Bank. In return for gaining a vital

base outside Hong Kong in the run-up to the handover of the colony to the Chinese in 1997, HKB will be able to boost Midland's capital base, weakened by its large Third World debt provisions. In particular its strength lies in hidden inner reserves, estimated at HK\$30 to HK\$40 billion (£2.27 to £3.02 billion).

Analysts have even started predicting the structure of an eventual merger. Most think it will be routed through a holding company based in Britain and consist of a share swap, with a possible special dividend for Midland shareholders. In terms of net worth, profits and market capitalization however, Midland would be the smaller partner in any merger.

Hong Kong banking sources suggested that the merger would be on a 50:50 basis, through the establishment of an independent holding company outside the colony.

A full takeover by the Hong Kong Bank, or one weighted in favour of it, is not considered viable in the short term because of the political problems posed by Britain's handover of the colony to China in 1997.

Unless the Hongkong Bank — Hong Kong's closest equivalent of a central bank — switches to an overseas domicile, it is bound to be regarded as a Chinese bank after 1997, and as such would pose ownership problems for the Midland.

Drexel may go for Chapter 11 protection

From Our Correspondent, New York

Drexel Burnham Lambert, the Wall Street investment house that pioneered the use of junk bond financing, yesterday revealed it had defaulted on \$100 million in loans and was considering filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The company said the filing would cover its holding company, Drexel Burnham Lambert Group, but not its brokerage subsidiary, Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc.

The bankruptcy protection would also exclude its government securities unit, Drexel Burnham Lambert Government Securities, which would liquidate its position, the company said.

The dramatic announcement followed the disclosure on Monday that the high-profile Wall Street firm, which last year agreed to pay \$650 million to settle charges of securities law violations, was seeking a major investor or a merger partner.

A source at Drexel Burnham said the board would endorse a decision that has already been made to file for bankruptcy.

Drexel's statement yesterday said its government securities unit would conduct an "orderly liquidation" of its positions.

But the broker-dealer would most likely be liquidated at some point to raise money for the holding company, the source said. He said one of Drexel's greatest challenges will be to prevent wholesale

defections of its employees and keep departments together so they can be sold. The aim was to sell parts of the firm if a buyer cannot be found for the whole.

Citicorp, whose Citibank unit was believed to be considering a special credit line of \$350 million to \$400 million for Drexel Burnham, declined comment, saying it would not discuss its customers.

Word on Wall Street yesterday was that few would be interested in buying the Drexel name because of the scandals that have surrounded it. However several big name firms were mentioned as possible bidders. First Boston, Merrill Lynch and Smith, Barney, Harris Upham & Co were all thought to be considering an investment. Officially though none of the firms would comment.

Drexel's latest move comes at a time when junk bonds have been hit hard by the collapse of Mr Robert Campbell's department store empire.

Last year Drexel underwent a massive restructuring that resulted in the sale of its retail brokerage business. Its workforce plunged from its mid-1980s high of more than 10,000 to just 5,000.

The junk bond market slump forced Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc, the parent company, to write down its junk bond holdings, putting it in financial difficulties.

Currencies fail to shake off nerves

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Currency markets remained nervous yesterday on uncertainties about German monetary union.

Herr Hans Modrow, the East German prime minister, said in Bonn that currency union was not on the immediate agenda.

But plans were agreed for a commission on the subject which could start work as early as next week.

The mark sank overnight on nervousness about inflationary implications of monetary union, but picked up as the dollar eased on concern over Drexel Burnham Lambert's difficulties. The dollar closed 0.83 of a penny higher in London against the mark at DM1.6768.

Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, Bundesbank president, said the mark was a strong currency and would remain so. He called for a pan-European approach to economic integration as speculation grew over a conversion rate of 2.40 Ostmarks to the Deutschmark.

M Jacques Delors, European Commission President, said he wanted a European summit to discuss German reunification soon after the East German elections next month.

Sterling gained nearly half a penny to close at DM2.8350 but was 0.4 of a cent lower at \$1.6920. The effective index was unchanged at 89.4.

Belzbergs line up new Asda chief

By Gillian Bowditch

The Canadian investors, the Belzberg brothers, are attempting to tighten their grip on Asda, the supermarket group in which they hold a 5.2 per cent stake in the name of First City Financial.

The brothers, who are believed to be contemplating a takeover bid, have lined up Mr David Fisher, a director of Ashley Group and formerly group marketing director of Gateway, to run the business.

The Belzbergs are known to be unhappy with the performance of Asda, whose share price has halved from 212p last year to 105p. They have lost millions of pounds on their shareholding which is now worth only £63.5 million, and may use current shareholder dissatisfaction to attempt to change the management team. Asda said it had

NatWest sells off Blue Arrow stake

By Martin Waller

National Westminster Bank will today dispose of most of its 10 per cent holding in Blue Arrow, the Manpower employment services business.

It is selling 66.6 million shares, or 9.16 per cent of the company, to a US institution, which under Stock Exchange regulations, will have to reveal its identity within the next four days.

The investor is not an existing substantial shareholder in Blue Arrow. The deal, through Morgan Stanley, the US merchant bank, will take the proportion of the shares held across the Atlantic to almost 80 per cent of the company.

The price is the equivalent of the 86p at which Blue Arrow started trading in London yesterday although

Public inquiry decision pushes back breakeven point

By Martin Waller

John Mowlem, the builder, has bitten the bullet over its troubled investment in the London City Airport and is including a £33 million exceptional loss in its calendar 1989 accounts over the scheme.

Sir Philip Beck, chairman, said the decision was forced on the company when in October the Secretary of State for the Environment decided on a full public inquiry on Mowlem's plans to expand the airport to include the use of jets. The inquiry will also consider the building of a nearby bridge across the Thames between Beckton and Thamesmead. "It has no cash flow or gearing implications for the group," he said.

Sir Philip added that the company was confident it would get the necessary permission but the lengthy inquiry would in any event push back breakeven point for the airport, which has up to now lost about £7.6 million for the

company. Since building started in 1987 Mowlem has spent £37 million on the City Airport. At the time it was expected to make money after this year. A later estimate pushed that date back to 1991, and Sir Philip now says at best breakeven will come the following year.

Mowlem is therefore writing down the book value of the investment by £20 million to £17 million, which would halve the proportion of its gross assets represented by the airport to about 7 per cent.

The additional £13 million comprises an estimated £4 million to provide for the cost of the inquiry, another £7 million estimate of the losses it will now make from the airport up to breakeven and a further £2 million in incidental costs already spent. But the company will reconsider the extent of the provision if the outcome of the inquiry is favourable. Mr Richard Hopewell, build-

ing analyst at Swiss Bank Corporation, reacted favourably. "I think they have been very smart. Basically, they are saving having to pay the tax bill until a lot later," he said.

He has cut his earlier forecast of £64 million pre-tax from Mowlem for 1989 to £31 million to reflect the exceptional item but is raising his estimate for 1990 from £60 million to £64 million.

A decision, which Sir Philip thought unlikely, not to allow jets, and in particular the BAE 146 "whispering jet," to use the City Airport would call into question its continuing existence. "No airport can exist on one aircraft type for ever," he said.

But prospects for the airport were now brighter, he believed, than when work started because of the heavy spending on transport projects such as the road link from Tower Hill and the extension of the existing Docklands Light Railway.

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ECC warns of profits fall and £20m cut in spending

Profits are falling at ECC Group, the former English China Clays, Lord Chilver, the chairman, told the annual meeting that demand was down in all divisions and threatened further job losses and a cut in spending. The shares slumped 29p to 385p.

Shareholders heard that trading had slowed in the first quarter and that results for the 12 months would be "adversely affected by market conditions."

Mr Robert Lister, analyst at BZW, ECC's broker, has cut his pre-tax profit forecast for the 12 months to September

30 from £165 million to £143 million. The group made £150.6 million last year. Earnings per share are expected to be about 39p, against his earlier expectation of 44.1p.

ECC is changing its year-end from September to December this year so the results will cover 15 months.

Lord Chilver disclosed that further rationalization and streamlining of operations were being carried out in response to changed trading conditions. The company plans to cut spending by £20 million this year.

He told the meeting that

"the worsening international economic conditions, accentuated by high interest rates in the United Kingdom, have resulted in less favourable demand in all the group's main business areas."

Construction-related operations have suffered in response to the weakness in the homebuilding sector and the general weakening in demand in the group's home territory, the South west of England.

First-quarter sales volumes in the international division were about the same as last year, he said. While group profits for the six months to

March 31 had been expected to be below last year, "the market factors noted earlier are making the current six months a much more difficult period than was originally anticipated," Lord Chilver said.

Bryant Holdings, the housebuilder in which ECC has 29.9 per cent stake, saw profits more than halve in the six months to November 30, from £31.1 million to £14.7 million. Earnings per share slumped from 9.9p to 4.7p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.4p.

Temper, page 26

Royal Bank woos small firms

The Royal Bank of Scotland has launched a new discount scheme in an attempt to expand its share of the smaller company banking market.

The Business Builder Programme offers savings of up to a half on computers, photocopyers and business travel.

The bank has teamed with eight companies to produce the discounts. Rank Xerox, for example, is offering 20 per cent off a £1,500 photocopier and a free electronic typewriter.

The biggest cuts come from AT Mays, the bank's travel agent, which is giving up to 50 per cent off a travel and car-hire package.

The programme, aimed at attracting companies with sales of up to £3 million a year, will be launched with a £400,000 advertising campaign.

Royal has 45 per cent of the small companies market in Scotland, but only 4 per cent south of the border.



Offering discounts: Lewis McGill, Royal Bank's executive director, UK banking, yesterday

No response to Esop legislation

Not one company has made use of the Government's legislation in the last Finance Act making provision for statutory Employee Share Ownership Plans (Esops) — nor is any considering doing so.

This is the conclusion of a survey by the Esop Centre conducted through 20 leading solicitors, accountants and consultants active in the field.

Esop is an American idea allowing companies to guarantee loans to employees to acquire shares. So far about 15 companies have established schemes in Britain, but all have been established under case law and none under the new statutory provisions.

The Esop Centre attributes the failure of the Government's initiative to the way the provisions have been drawn. In particular it wants the Chancellor to extend the use of Esops so that shares can be distributed from Esop funds on a wider basis than the 1978 scheme to which they are pegged.

Companies say they would be much more attracted to Esops if some of the shares in the fund could be used to reward managers where incentive would be most valuable to the company.

Confusion as Egerton reports 139% increase

Egerton Trust, the house-builder and property developer chaired by Mr Frank Sanderson, has reported what appears at first sight to be a cracking set of figures for 1989. Pre-tax profits jumped 139 per cent from £7.97 million to £19 million in the year to December on turnover a third higher at £146 million.

This translated into a 165 per cent jump in fully diluted earnings per share from 11.1p to 29.4p and the final rises from 4p to 6.5p, leaving the total distribution 54 per cent ahead at 10p. However, the figures as reported caused some confusion because of the extent of the restatement of the 1988 results.

Pre-tax profits for that year had originally been given at £10.1 million and fully diluted earnings at 21.4p. The few analysts who follow the stock were inundated with calls from institutions puzzled about the discrepancy.

The main reason was the decision to merger-account the results of Reunion Holdings, the property developer acquired in July for £24.5 million in cash and shares.

This had made a small loss in 1988, but chipped in £10 million to profits in the last financial year.

Mr Sanderson said year-end borrowings were higher than expected due to high interest rates and a depressed property market. "As a result, we decided to defer certain property sales. Year-end borrowings were thus higher than expected," he said.

He added that negotiations were in hand to sell properties which would generate substantial profits in 1990.

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Ten Habitat stores to close

Storehouse, the Habitat, Mothercare and British Home Stores group, is expected to announce the closure and sale of about 10 Habitat stores shortly. The sale is part of the reorganization of the group and is intended to help return the furniture business to profit.

The group said no decision had been made on which stores would be closed but an announcement is expected before the end of the group's financial year in March. Storehouse flagged the closure of some Habitat stores when it announced interim results in November.

Habitat has 56 stores in the UK and five in Ireland. BHS, which are almost certain to go.

The stores to be closed will include out-of-town and high street stores. Of the 10 worst performing Habitat stores, eight are out-of-town stores and two are high street outlets where superstores have opened nearby.

Habitat made an operating loss of £2.8 million for the first time last year on sales of £107 million and Habitat in the UK is expected to lose about £11 million this year, according to Goldman Sachs, the securities house. The French division, with half the selling space of the UK chain and 30 fewer stores, is performing strongly and is expected to make profits of £8 million this year.

Kalms scions off

Richard Kalms, the eldest of the three sons of Dillons chairman Stanley Kalms, is leaving the business after almost 12 years. Richard, aged 35, had apparently been planning his departure since long before the Kingfisher bid and has taken the opportunity of the bid's referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to make his move. "It is something he has wanted to do for so many years and on that basis I have encouraged him to do it — even though there are mixed feelings for any dad when he sees his son going after such a long time," says Stanley. "But you either go into corporate life — and this is a very big company these days — or go it alone."

And Richard is very much going it alone — or rather he is joining his brother Paul, aged 27, to launch their own property-cum-investment company. "We both have a certain amount of money, some of it inherited, I admit, and we want to manage it ourselves," he tells me. "We are looking for offices in the West End, we haven't even thought of a name yet but I'm really looking forward to being private."

Paul has apparently been working on his own for 18 months, investing in the stock market and traded options. "We will probably invest in property, as long-term investors rather than developers — the property market is looking very interesting with high interest rates and a lot of forced sellers — and we might

Taking two Chances

By popular demand, fund manager Giles Chance — with Crown Agents and then Whitbread, the Lloyd's specialist — is launching a Chinese trade consultancy with his Shanghai-born wife, Ying. It is called, appropriately, Chance China. Giles explains that his wife was more or less forced into the business by people in China, who repeatedly requested her assistance to find people with whom they could do business in Britain. Now they plan to extend their services to British businessmen who want to trade with China. "Ying's father is a history professor at the People's University of Peking and she has a PhD in economics herself," says Giles, aged 38. "She used to work for Barclays over here but was for ever being asked for help by fellow countrymen. Chance China started trading in June last year and I joined her in October." The couple, who met when they both worked for the World Bank in Washington six years ago, have lined up two representatives in China to help smooth the path of their clients. "One, in Peking, was AT&T's office manager, the other, in Shanghai, is a software engineer."

● No lesser an authority than America's *Barometer Magazine* has conducted its own survey to find the best exporters. The results are surprising — the top exporters turned out to be other exporters, then writers and webmasters, bar owners, scientists and shopkeepers. Stockbrokers came last.

Carol Leonard

Grenfell corporate financier Robert Shrager who is on the main board. And it leaves just one son — Stephen, aged 33 — still with the firm. But Richard will be maintaining close relations — his barrister wife, Yvonne, and Stephen's solicitor wife, Deborah, are, he reveals, sisters.

Dressed to spill

The continuing success of Freshfields, the City law firm which has just moved into a gleaming new suite of Square Mile offices just off Fleet Street, may be going to its head, according to the current edition of *The Lawyer*. An inside source at the professional journal says that solicitors there must now live the Freshfields life with all their being. It reveals that one of the partners has just kitted himself out with a pin-striped ski jacket.

Midland

"It's from Hongkong and Shanghai."

Cars lift US retail sales to \$146.4bn

From Susan Elliott, Washington

Improved car sales helped boost US retail sales 1.6 per cent last month in the biggest monthly increase in a year to a seasonally adjusted \$146.4 billion. The rise was only slightly higher than predicted and did little to allay fears that the US economy is stalling because of falling consumer spending.

Bond prices on Wall Street weakened immediately after the Commerce Department released the latest statistics but quickly recovered. The yield on the newest benchmark 30-year slipped after the recovery to 8.40 per cent, compared with a close the previous day at 8.45 per cent.

Economists had expected strong retail sales for January as car dealers continued to offer incentives to tempt customers. Many other shops, especially in clothing businesses, also discounted goods to boost trade.

Retail sales excluding cars rose 0.6 per cent last month against 0.4 per cent in December. The rise was helped by a 2.3 per cent increase in the sale of building materials following a drop of 2.5 per cent in December when extreme cold weather thwarted construction work.

The Federal Reserve has held interest rates relatively high to restrict credit. Manufacturing and building industries have, therefore, held back from expanding, leading to sluggishness in the economy.

Petrol and furniture sales also rose last month while food sales fell 0.4 per cent after rising 0.6 per cent in December. Last week, the US government reported a sharp 1.8 per cent increase in the consumer price index that reflected higher food and energy costs during a year-end cold spell.

● Bryant Holdings, the housebuilder in which ECC has 29.9 per cent stake, saw profits more than halve in the six months to November 30, from £31.1 million to £14.7 million. Earnings per share slumped from 9.9p to 4.7p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.4p.

Temper, page 26

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Carol Leonard

Berlitz profit up to \$28.2m

Berlitz International, the language instruction company which is a subsidiary of Maxwell Communication Corporation, acquired as part of Macmillan Inc, reported a 12.3 per cent increase in pre-tax income to \$28.2 million in the year to end-December.

Sales of services and products climbed by 16.8 per cent to \$216.5 million, helped by strong gains in lesson volumes, up 14.1 per cent to 4.9 million lessons.

Do not bet on a spring wedding for Midland

According to the gung-ho tendency in the City, Midland Bank's merger with its Far Eastern fiancé is all over but the shouting. But at this stage of what has already become a lengthy courtship, it would be as well to remember that there may be many a slip between cup and lip.

Speculation about a bid from Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has been running at fever pitch for many weeks now. When the haze finally clears, the rumours may prove to have been wishful thinking, not self-fulfilling prophecy. Yesterday's statement that discussions are at a preliminary stage needs careful reading. It was forced rather than volunteered by the would-be partners. If it indicates anything clearly, it is that neither party is ready to tie the knot immediately.

There can be little doubting the commitment of both banks to eventual merger. There is plenty of tangible evidence: staff interchanges, collaboration on common systems and a joint approach to overseas business are the most obvious. But picking the moment when a deal can be sold to both sets of shareholders may be as tricky as timing Britain's entry as a full member of the European Monetary Union.

Both banks need to broaden the ranges of their businesses for entirely different reasons. Midland is too small and too domestic to compete successfully alongside its British high street rivals. Its balance sheet needs some beef, if only in the short run to fully absorb its provisioning for Third World debt. After Crocker, any solo efforts to

expand abroad would deservedly be greeted with derision.

The Hong Kong bank has the shadow of 1997 looming over its future.

The immediate difficulty is that Midland's price has already run beyond what is reasonable on fundamental grounds. Its shares are rated at an uncomfortable premium to the sector. Merger terms which validated these levels might be tough to sell to HSBC shareholders, who are already reported to be uneasy at the levels of Midland's Third World debt.

Midland holders may feel the same about HSBC's exposure to Alan Bond, which will take time to crystallize. And, most important of all, the secretive Hong Kong bank has to break with tradition and disclose its full earnings and the size of its inner balance sheet reserves.

Only when all of these aspects become clear can Midland holders sensibly appraise a merger plan which will inevitably hinge on the size of the final equity split and the earnings and assets contributions of both banks. But there is much to play for.

A fully merged group would rank alongside Barclays and NatWest in asset terms and stand at second or third in net earnings terms. It would also be geographically strong.

If anyone can negotiate the regulatory hurdles it is Midland's chairman, Sir Kit McMahon. But it might be rash to bank on a spring wedding rather than the further flowering of a happy engagement.

Saatchi's barefaced cheek

It takes a fair degree of barefaced gall, even by the standards of the advertising industry, to take a double-page advertisement in the *Financial Times* trumpeting "a record year" after the kind of 1989 the Saatchi brothers enjoyed. The "record year" produced a post-tax loss, and was also notable for the capture of the Saatchis' crown as the world's biggest advertising agency by arch-rival Martin Sorrell's WPP Group.

With impeccable timing, the ad appeared as yet another dark cloud loomed on the horizon. Saatchi is now being sued in California by a group of thoroughly disgruntled US investors who were tempted into its American Depository Receipts from July 1987 to March of last year. The company is sheltering behind the advice of its lawyers and disdaining to comment, claiming the whole matter is *sub judice*. It will say that it believes the action has no merit.

Even given the pitfalls for the unwary concealed within the American legal system, Saatchi's long-

suffering shareholders deserve a little better. They have, as the Americans are only too aware, seen the shares slump from a 1988 high of 456p to a new low of 223p on the latest news, although they managed a grudging 2p recovery yesterday.

The Americans are following in the footsteps of a party of French investors who formed their own ginger group to make life difficult for the brothers. But the US move is potentially more serious, because a higher proportion of the shares — more than a quarter — are held in the US than in France and because the French are not actually suing.

Few give the Americans — who claim non-disclosure of essential information and misleading financial statements — much chance of success, not least because of the Pandora's Box of similar actions this would open, but it could be a time-consuming and expensive haul just when the new chief executive Mr Robert Louis-Dreyfus needs to keep his eye on the ball.

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Glen Renfrew, Managing Director and Chief Executive.

	Year to 31 December 1989		Year to 31 December 1988		
	£m	US\$m	£m	US\$m	Difference
Revenue	1,186.9	1,910.9	1,003.3	1,615.2	+18.3
Pre-Tax Profit	283.1	455.7	215.4	346.7	+31.4
Taxation	101.9	164.1	81.2	130.7	+25.5
Profit after tax	181.2	291.6	134.2	216.0	+35.0
Dividend	54.0	87.0	37.3	60.0	+45.1
Earnings per Share (ADS)	43.6p	(\$2.11)	32.1p	(\$1.55)	+36.1

Note: The above unaudited financial information has been prepared in accordance with UK GAAP and does not comprise full accounts within the meaning of the Companies Act 1985. Audited consolidated financial statements of Reuters for the year ended 31 December 1989 will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies following the AGM on 26 April 1990. For convenience the US dollar equivalents for both years have been converted at a buying rate at 31 December 1989 of US\$1.61 to £1.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☐ Earnings per share growth strong.
- ☐ Information and transaction products performed well.
- ☐ Longer-term growth rate of discretionary costs reduced.
- ☐ New communications networks bringing benefits.
- ☐ Good progress in media markets.

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Cable Wireless (a)	Telecoms	
2	Bolton (P)	Property	
3	Venoco	Bank, Discount	
4	Wentworth (Water)	Transport	
5	Marco	Electronics	
6	Rockhugh	Property	
7	Claydon	Property	
8	PFG Hodson	Industrial A-D	
9	Olive Hidge	Paper, Print, Adv	
10	Quadrant Group	Leisure	
11	Photo-Mc	Industrial A-D	
12	Crail	Transport	
13	Vital	Drugs, Stores	
14	Stashbury	Industrial A-D	
15	Racal Elect (a)	Electronics	
16	Goal Per	Oil, Gas	
17	Bespak	Industrial A-D	
18	Crusa	Industrial A-D	
19	Cardo Eng	Industrial A-D	
20	Delyn Packings	Paper, Print, Adv	
21	Prison Leisure	Leisure	
22	AB Elect	Electronics	
23	Renold	Chemicals, Plastics	
24	Cook (Wm)	Industrial A-D	
25	Leo	Transport	
26	Stashbury	Property	
27	Ulster (a)	Oil, Gas	
28	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
29	Hawker Siddeley (a)	Industrial A-D	
30	General Whi	Electronics	
31	Br Airways (a)	Transport	
32	Bodycote	Industrial A-D	
33	Hoskins Gp	Electronics	
34	BNS Res	Paper, Print, Adv	
35	Tibbet & Britten	Transport	
36	Aut New Z	Chemicals, Plastics	
37	GRN (a)	Industrial A-D	
38	Novo Ind	Industrial A-D	
39	Black (Pier)	Industrial A-D	
40	Si Ives Gp	Paper, Print, Adv	
41	Nat Aust Bk	Bank, Discount	
42	Glaxo (a)	Industrial A-D	
43	Citic (a)	Leisure	
44	Citic (a)	Leisure	

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

UNDATED			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

INDEX-LINKED			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

ELECTRICALS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

DRAPERY, STORES			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

HOTELS, CATERERS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

BREWERIES			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

BUILDING, ROADS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

FINANCE, LAND			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

FINANCIAL TRUSTS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

FOODS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

L-R			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

SHOES, LEATHER			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

TEXTILES			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

TOBACCOS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

TRANSPORT			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

OIL, GAS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

WATER			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

OIL, GAS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

WATER			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 12. Dealings end February 23. Contango day February 26. Settlement day March 5.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 28)

1989/90	High	Low	Stock

1989/90	High	Low	Stock

1989/90	High	Low	Stock

1989/90	High	Low	Stock

1989/90	High	Low	Stock

1989/90	High	Low	Stock

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1989/90	High	Low	Stock

1989/90	High	Low	Stock

1989/90	High	Low	Stock

1989/90	High	Low	Stock

Portfolio

PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND

£2,000

Claims required for +37 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

PROPERTY			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

SHOES, LEATHER			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

TEXTILES			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

TOBACCOS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

TRANSPORT			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

OIL, GAS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

WATER			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
1989/90	High	Low	Stock

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 89.4 (day's range 89.3-89.4).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for February 13						
	Range	Close	1 month	3 months		
New York	1.6935-1.6925	1.6915-1.6922	0.67-0.69p	2.70-2.68p	Argentina austral*	4.057-26.4257
London	2.0712-2.0510	2.0273-2.0510	0.38-0.39p	0.81-0.74p	Australia dollar	2.226-2.232p
Bombay	1.71-1.72p	1.72p	0.20p	0.20p	Bahian dollar	0.0225-0.024p
Brussels	56.14-56.43p	56.25-56.42p	52-51p	48-47p	Brazil cruzado*	36.000-32.161p
Calcutta	1.70-1.71p	1.70p	0.20p	0.20p	Ceylon pound	0.7850-1.050p
Colombo	1.70-1.71p	1.70p	0.20p	0.20p	Dutch guilder	2.60-2.61p
Dubai	1.0939-1.0729	1.0690-1.0693	30-25p	82-72p	Green dracmas	198.16-199.23p
Frankfurt	2.0533-2.0410	2.0350-2.0410	11p-10p	41p-40p	Indian rupee	25.52-25.32p
Geneva	1.71-1.72p	1.72p	0.20p	0.20p	Kenya shilling	0.4257-0.425p
Madrid	163.18-163.85p	163.44-163.85p	8p-9p	18p-17p	Malay dollar	2.22-2.23p
Mexico	1.71-1.72p	1.72p	0.20p	0.20p	Mexican peso	4.050-4.06p
Osaka	10.9136-10.9485	10.9222-10.9454	31p-31p	10-9p	Nepalese rupee	2.22-2.23p
Paris	2.0412-2.0605	2.0457-2.0603p	31p-30p	91p-92p	Saudi Arabian riyal	2.22-2.23p
Rangoon	1.70-1.71p	1.70p	0.20p	0.20p	Singapore dollar	1.4108-1.4104p
Tokyo	243.21-244.23p	243.91-244.23p	11p-11p	41p-41p	Taiwan dollar	2.22-2.23p
Yokohama	15.22-15.20p	15.05-15.01p	10p-10p	31p-29p	S Africa rand (cont.)	4.2408-4.2408p
Frankfurt	2.0271-2.0303	2.0271-2.0303	31p-31p	31p-31p	U A E dirham	6.16-6.12p

*Percent. = disc. = dis.
 Rates supplied by
 Edd and Barclay

DOLLAR SPOT RATES			
Ireland	1.5730-1.5745	Denmark	6.5000-6.5050
Singapore	1.8840-1.8850	W Germany	1.8820-1.8827
Malaysia	2.7045-2.7055	Switzerland	1.5018-1.5028
Australia	1.3227-1.3245	Netherlands	1.8950-1.8990
Canada	1.2000-1.2010	France	5.7275-5.7325
Sweden	4.6850-4.6900	Italy	1260.0-1282.0
Norway	6.4850-6.4900	Belgium (Cont)	35.18-35.21
		Hong Kong	7.5105-7.5110
		Portugal	148.00-148.01
		Spain	106.50-106.60
		Austria	11.82-11.83

MONEY MARKETS

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %				
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar	8 1/2-7 7/8	8 1/8-8 1/4	8 1/8-8 1/4	8 1/8-8 1/4
Cal: 6 3/4-7				
Deutschmark	8-7 3/4	8 1/8-8 1/4	8 1/8-8 1/4	8 1/8-8 1/4
Cal: 7 1/2-8				
French Franc	10 1/2-10 1/4	10 1/2-10 1/4	11 1/8-11 1/4	11 1/8-11 1/4
Cal: 11-11 1/8				
Italian Lira	9 1/8-9 1/4	9 1/8-9 1/4	9 1/8-9 1/4	9 1/8-9 1/4
Cal: 10-8				
Yen	8 1/8-8 1/4	8 1/8-8 1/4	7 7/8-7 7/8	7 7/8-7 7/8
Cal: 6 1/2-6 3/4				

GOLD
 Price: \$429.52

[illegible]

ON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Clos	Vol		Open	High	Low	Clos	Vol
TT-SE 100						Three Month ECU					
Mar 90	2301.0	2308.0		Previous open interest 22691		May 90	88.61			Previous open interest 2423	
Jun 90	2324.0	2329.0		2328.0 2336.5	7	Jun 90	88.50			88.50 88.50	145
Month Straddle						US Treasury Bond					
Mar 90	85.23	85.32		Previous open interest 147458		May 90	94.05	94.17			
Jun 90	85.23	85.32		85.25 85.31 1719.0		Long Call					
Three Month Eurodollar						Mar 90	86.34	87.18			Previous open interest 3959
Mar 90	91.58	91.66		Previous open interest 36620		Jun 90	86.50	87.18			22748
Jun 90	91.58	91.66		91.58 91.64 1443		Japanese Govt Bond					
Three Month Euro DM						Mar 90	95.33	95.50			Previous open interest 5000
Mar 90	91.58	91.66		Previous open interest 43351		German Govt Bond					
Jun 90	91.58	91.66		91.58 91.66 3383		Mar 90	95.32	95.70			Previous open interest 52617
Three Month Euro Yen											
Mar 90	91.58	91.66		Previous open interest 43351							
Jun 90	91.58	91.66		91.58 91.66 3383							

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

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MEDIA & MARKETING

You are invited to make a killing...

There will be as much chance of reaching 1991 without mention of Agatha Christie, undisputed queen of crime writers, as of outwitting Miss Marple. A big public relations exercise is celebrating the centenary of the writer's birth. For the first time, the family has given permission for commercial exploitation of the Christie name, albeit tightly vetted for taste and ethics, and just for 1990. Such a year of promotional activities is the stuff of which PR dreams are made.

The man in the happy position of co-ordinating the campaign is Anthony Martin, who has successfully organized marketing for half of that used to be called Fleet Street. Marketing something connected with the woman who many reckon as outlived the Bible must be easier than his previous efforts in behalf of the SDP. He is installed in an office, surrounded by stationery and memorabilia bearing the centenary logo in the form of a writing question marks to symbolize the mystery genre.

"I want an annotated version to be used on television," he says. "I want to see everywhere by everyone." And he is making sure that we will go by printing it on glassware, ceramics and even paper clips. "The family can't bear the term merchandise, so this will be memorabilia. We are not having key rings or any of those ghastly things that you see in souvenir shops."

Christie's works have sold a total

The queen of crime was born 100 years ago. Nicola Murphy looks at plans to celebrate the event

of two billion in 44 languages. The 78 thrillers, six romantic novels, (under the nom de plume Mary Westmacott) and four non-fiction books bring in approximately £2.5 million a year in royalties; play, film and television rights generate almost as much again.

The family owns only 36 per cent of Agatha Christie Limited; Booker plc has the 64 per cent shareholding. Even so, the chairman of ACL, Matthew Prichard cannot be badly off, because he is the grandchild of Christie who, on his ninth birthday 37 years ago, received the rights to the earnings of one particular play. The *Mousetrap* has now brought in £14 million in box office takings. "Agatha Christie is the most popular writer of any time, anywhere," Martin says. "And she is a substantial export earner for Britain."

She is also a substantial earner for charity. The Agatha Christie Trust for Children benefits enormously from a large proportion of the profits from overseas productions of *The Mousetrap* and the centenary aims to generate more. The company is not producing memorabilia to fill its own coffers; profits from all the goods are going to charity. In particular, it is hoped that a

centenary souvenir booklet will raise anything from £200,000 to £750,000 from sales and advertising. "Giving money away takes the smell out of it," Martin says.

And Prichard says: "The centenary is to give everyone connected with Agatha Christie a bit of a boost and a bit of a celebration." So we have a BBC *Miss Marple* and an LWT *Poirot* series, and there is talk of a BBC2 *Arena* dedicated to the writer; a Welsh National Opera touring production of *Der Rosenkavalier*, sponsored by the centenary, launches in Cardiff on March 1, and the official centenary play, *The Spider's Web*, started its nationwide tour at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, last night.

There are commemorative editions from Collins and a "biography" of Poirot from Pavilion, talking books from EMI, a hybrid rose from Matlocks, the Oxfordshire rose growers, and, as Martin says, "heaven knows how many murder mystery weekends".

Torquay — where Christie was born — will be absorbed in a "Mystery on the English Riviera" event in September. The Crime Writers' Association of Great Britain will hold its annual convention there, and a spectacular vintage motor run, organized by Lord Montagu, the National Motor Museum and the RAC, will converge on the town. The week's events will culminate in "the biggest firework display the south coast has ever seen".

"It'll be no mystery what kills me," comments Neil Devons from the Torbay Tourist Board.



Dame Agatha Christie: a substantial earner for both exports and charity

Colouring in the presses

By next year, all of Britain's national newspapers will be fully on-the-run

For the past few weeks Scottish readers of *The Sun* have enjoyed a facility not yet available to its English buyers: full on-the-run colour photographs on the front page and in the centre spread of the newspaper. *The Sun's* colour pages are being printed on News International's two new Man-Roland Colourman 35 presses in Glasgow and are, for the time being, experimental.

The presses are part of NT's £550 million investment in new printing halls in Wapping, Liverpool and Glasgow. In mid-May the company will introduce colour nationally into two of its tabloid titles, *The Sun* and the *News of the World*, when it commissions eight of its 16 new Man-Roland Newsman 40 printing presses in Wapping, London (the other eight will follow in mid-June).

The facility will later be gradually introduced into *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, NT's broadsheet titles. In November eight new Newsman 40 presses will come on-line at Knowsley in Liverpool. The final stage of the process will come at the beginning of next year, when *Today* moves into Wapping and Knowsley.

On-the-run colour simply means colour reproduction as part of the normal in-house (generally web-offset) printing process. Until recently, newspapers which wanted to incorporate colour pages had to go to pre-print photographic specialists. However, their expertise, while technically excellent, takes a long time and is expensive. As a result, it is better suited to the needs of magazines and advertising.

Today, under Eddy Shah, its founder, was the first national newspaper to introduce on-the-run colour. However, its reproduction quality, although improved, has never been state-of-the-art. Express Newspapers introduced the process last July and the titles in the Associated Newspapers group, publisher of the *Daily Mail*, had on-the-run colour by January.

It was only when Mirror Group Newspapers opted for on-the-run colour in 1988 that advertisers began to take it seriously. For example, Cadbury Schweppes preferred Mirrorcolour to television when, in a campaign worth "hundreds of thousands of pounds", according to Stephen Ward, its marketing director, it launched its new Silk brand of confectionery. And, Ward says: "It has been successful."

Mark Pritchett, deputy group advertising director for MGN, says the market for national colour advertising grew by two-thirds, to £22.3 million last year and, without even accounting for the NI titles, is set to grow by an even greater proportion this year. He says toiletries, pharmaceuticals and foods are also moving into colour advertising.

However, Charlie Varley, media manager at WCRS Matthews Marcantonia, the advertising agency, says: "The colour market is still only half a market."

Many advertisers are waiting for *The Sun* to offer on-the-run colour before making up their minds whether to enter the market, which Varley says is essentially confined to the popular Press. He adds that he still wants the better quality pre-print facility to be retained in newspapers for his agency's prestige clients.

Bob Wootton, media director of Horner, Collis and Kirvan, says: "After a shaky start, on-the-run colour prices are coming down [now to a 20 per cent to 40 per cent premium on black and white printing] and the results are pretty good."

Gus Fischer, managing director of News International Newspapers, says: "The groundswell for colour in advertising is still building. Some national advertisers will only want to move into colour when everyone offers it."

Andrew Lycett

Leg-up for law's long arm

Over the next few months, as school leavers and graduates consider their choice of career, Britain's police force will launch its most vigorous advertising campaign to date, to tackle what it sees as one of its biggest problems.

The force has identified recruitment as an area in which improvements must be made if the police are to restore and maintain public confidence. It is investing almost £5 million over the next three years in an attempt to attract the right candidates. At the end of March,

London's Metropolitan Police will begin its first recruitment drive for 15 years. It is hoped the £1.5 million campaign, devised by Collett Dickinson Pearce, the advertising agency, will encourage more ethnic minorities to join up.

Later in the spring, Riley, the agency employed by the Central Office of Information, starts a £4 million, three-year campaign to attract recruits to the dwindling force of volun-

Britain's police forces are spending

£5 million in a bid to boost recruitment

teer special constables. Riley is also targeting recruits for the force's special graduate training courses this spring, and in the summer launches a "prison awareness" campaign to boost the number of prison officers. In the case of the special

constabulary — a back-up force made up of volunteers, whose numbers have plummeted from 25,000 to 16,000 since 1976 — the main problem is the public's lack of basic information about the service, Riley's managing director,

Anne Riley, says. "There are a large number of people who would like to do something for the community, but are unaware of the opportunities."

Recruiting more police from the ethnic communities is seen as vital. Scotland Yard demonstrated its commitment last month when, in an effort to prevent some candidates from being disqualified before they even applied, it dropped the 5ft 8in height requirement

(5ft 4in for women) for new officers, making an estimated two million more people in Britain eligible to join.

But the task facing them is enormous. Fewer than 2 per cent of the London force — 520 out of 28,348 — come from the ethnic communities, and there are no black or Asian officers holding the rank of chief superintendent or above. To make matters worse, the wastage rate is huge. Last year 35 joined, but 26 left.

Alex Sutherland

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This includes identifying issues which affect Sense and its members and working on campaigns for changes to legislation or public opinion. The postholder will have management responsibility for the quality and content of Sense's own publications and for some other aspects of Sense's public relations work. Applicants must have had experience of press work, although not necessarily within the voluntary sector. It is desirable to have had editorial responsibility for a publication.

For further information about this post contact:
Liz Booth, Personnel Officer
SENSE
The National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association
311 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8PT
Telephone 01-278 1005

Application is by letter and CV to be received by 23 February 1990. Job sharers are welcome.



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Duties	Qualifications	What we offer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> development, coordination, implementation and supervision of trade-related advertising and promotion activities optimisation of merchandise presentations at point of sale planning, realisation and supervision of trade fairs and exhibitions development and provision of internal and external information and presentation materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> university degree in marketing/sales or successfully completed traineeship at advertising agencies several years' experience in the advertising/sales promotion areas of advertising agencies or manufacturers of consumer goods experience in European retail trade perfect writing skills in German, fluent English, French desirable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an interesting and varied range of duties co-operative management style achievement-oriented salary package superannuation plan

Are you interested? Please send your full application together with details of the salary you envisage as well as the earliest date on which you can start to Mr. Uwe Strümpell.

Dole Fresh Fruit Europe Ltd. & Co. • Stadtdelch 7 • 2000 Hamburg 1

Communications Media Vacancies

£19,000 OTE Ad Manager

Leading communication business press title based in ECI. At least 9 months experience as a Deputy is required ideally in computer or related press.

£17,000 OTE 2 Deputy Ad Manager

Post based in W London. One is established business to business role. The second is for a new launch. Would suit good senior sales executive with 10 months media sales experience.

£15,000 OTE Senior Sales Executive

Posts in computer press in several London locations. Some face to face media sales experience is required but your approach is more important.

All the above posts will require DIPAD training experience.

For more details contact David on (0772) 48111 or send your cv to him at 55 London Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 1NW.

The Business Recruitment Co.

PRESS & MEDIA OFFICER PUBLICITY OFFICER

Cumbria County Council is seeking to appoint two experienced and talented professionals to join its developing Public Relations Unit. The Unit provides advice and assistance to County Council departments and others on all aspects of communications; its work involves many disciplines and areas of expertise in all media: it is playing an important role in helping to develop an appropriate corporate identity and culture that will reflect Cumbria County Council's success in the last decade of the 20th Century.

The work of the PRESS AND MEDIA OFFICER will involve day-to-day dealings with the press and broadcasting media, and will include writing, reporting and editing for County Council publications.

The successful candidate will possess a number of skills and qualities and will be sufficiently confident to accept responsibility for developing and implementing an important area of the County Council's public strategy. He/she will also possess a wider knowledge and understanding of communications and marketing, and a second European language would be considered an asset.

The PUBLICITY OFFICER will advise clients within departments on both marketing and public relations, assist them to develop clear and concise briefs and liaise with writers and designers to ensure work is produced on time and within budget.

Interesting work, numerous opportunities, and the freedom and support to excel await the two people we're looking for. Salaries will depend on experience and, if necessary, assistance with relocation costs will be given.

If either of these jobs sound like an opportunity and challenge you would like to see the prospect of living in one of Britain's most beautiful counties - please write to Julian Brennan, Public Relations Officer, Cumbria County Council, The Courts, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8NA.



Cumbria County Council is an equal opportunities employer.

WRITER

Hot young writer required for hot young record company. Must have previous journalistic experience, love music and have an engaging personality.

If you think you can write for Prince, Madonna and Aztec Camera send CV and details of current salary to Stephanie Smith, Personnel Department, WEA Records Ltd, P.O. Box 59, Riperton Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 1FJ.

ADVERTISING SALES

£25K - £55K PA

We are publishers of many of the world's leading titles for corporate decision makers including Business Strategy International and Global Investment Management.

The launch of a number of important new titles has created vacancies for high calibre Advertising Sales Executives.

We are looking for articulate and motivated young people who can deal effectively on the telephone with international clients and prospective advertisers.

As part of a major publishing group, our Sales Executives are accustomed to realising the highest earnings in media sales.

If you have good advertising sales experience or the relevant communication skills, then please telephone:

Chris Humphreys or Laurence Garman
at Cornhill Publications
on 01-240-1515.

Business Development & Planning Manager

EMI Records (UK) - Central London

In the highly competitive music business, EMI sets the standards that others follow - a leading position that we maintain through a strong commitment to strategic market planning on a global scale.

Following the promotion of the current job holder we are looking for an equally able candidate to work closely with our UK Managing Director and his senior management team. Reporting to the Finance Director your role as business development and planning manager will be to collect key economic and market data, analyse the performance of our main competitors, identify significant trends in the industry and collate this information into regular working documents accompanied by an informed commentary.

By definition, dynamic, ambitious and well-motivated, you will be in your late twenties to early thirties with a good basic training in business planning, ideally coupled with an MBA or a background in economics or accountancy. You will be IT literate and should also have an empathy with the music business as well as a real desire to develop your career in business planning or a market oriented line function.

In return we offer not only a competitive salary and a full range of large company benefits (including company car) but also an outstanding opportunity to improve your business skills at the heart of a major international entertainment company.

To apply please contact:
E.R.E. White, Human Resources Director
EMI Records (UK), 20 Manchester Square
London W1A 1ES
with full details of your career to date.



A THORN EMI Company

THE SUNDAY TIMES

REQUIRES A DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

to fill a key role as part of the Foreign team. Candidates should display an ability to write about East-West relations, the European Community, arms control and British foreign relations. She/he would also be expected to report on foreign stories.

Write with full curriculum vitae to:

John Witherow, Foreign Editor,
The Sunday Times,
1 Pennington Street,
LONDON, E1 9XW

GENERAL MANAGER

to £20,000

A unique opportunity for a well qualified person to manage a rapidly expanding manufacturing company. Your sales and marketing skills along with your management experience will make this an ideal role for you. The right person could earn £20,000.

Call Jean Turner on 01 278 4141 KEYSTONE RECRUITMENT.

COOKING CRAZY

Domestic and commercial food service opportunities available. Salary £20,000 per annum. West End and South Kensington areas. Please phone Sue 01-581 8065

The Dutch news agency ANP requires a Journalist (m/f) for its English desk in The Hague.

The job consists of writing and editing a twice-daily news bulletin for embassies and multinational companies and contributing items to a new real time financial and economic news service.

The successful applicant will be part of a five-strong team working day and evening shifts with weekend duty in turn.

The position requires good writing skills, some experience of business journalism and a sound knowledge of the Dutch language.

Salary in accordance with the collective labour agreement for ANP Journalists. Annual leave 32 days. Please apply in writing with c.v. and examples of recent work to Mr C.J.H. Hoole, Personnel Manager, ANP, P.O. Box 1, 2501 AA The Hague, Netherlands.

1st move YOUNG FLYERS

Recruitment agency for the top 100 publishing companies in the UK. We are looking for young people with a flair for business and a desire to work in a fast-paced environment. We offer a salary of £12,000 per annum. For more information please write to: Recruitment

CARRERAS LATHANE
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
4 GOLDEN SQUARE, LONDON W1R 3AE
01-439 9634

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

CHAIRMAN'S P.A.

to £20,000

A challenging, involved position for a responsible P.A. who wants the scope and responsibility offered at the highest level. A superb opportunity to work alongside the recently honoured Chairman of this major concern. Your previous dealings at the most senior level, self-confidence, strong administration and interpersonal skills will be utilised to the full in this top role.

Call Susan Mills
The Susan Mills Portfolio (Rec Cons)
Tel 01-242 3276
Fax 01-831 5253

Senior Secretary/PA For Scientific Director

Experienced secretary required to work with small, busy team dealing with the administration of grants and research programmes and the organisation of medical meetings. Hospital/medical school background would be useful but initiative, enthusiasm and ability to tackle wide range of interesting responsibilities just as important. A demanding post with high level involvement.

Send a brief c.v. or telephone for further details: Janet York, Leukemia Research Fund, 43 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JJ. Tel: 01-405 0101

PROPERTY PA £15,000.

Young, lively Chairman level Secretary. Rusty S/H. Varied, prestigious offices. W1. Tel 323 6812 D&D Consultants Rec Cons.

BUSY HARLEY STREET SURGEON

needs enthusiastic and capable Secretary. Salary negotiable. Tel: 935 6786.

PERSONNEL C £11,500 COVENT GARDEN

Career move for ambitious young secretary to learn all aspects of personnel within this famous name Co. Lots of liaison with agencies and applicants. High admin content.

Call Sophie Evans on 602 3012 STAFFPLAN Rec Cons.

EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Strasbourg, France

senior secretary with experience: English mother tongue, good French, to work for scientific secretary in small secretariat office, from 1 May 1990. Job responsibilities: sound secretarial skills, ability to work independently, sense of responsibility, experience with micro-computer.

Applications enclosing CV and tel. no. to: ESF, 1 rue Loez-Marmels, 67000 Strasbourg, France

PROPERTY PA/SECRETARY

For energetic, busy rental company in Mayfair. Must be multi-lingual, well organised, cheerful and have sound secretarial skills. Attractive salary.

Fax your CV on 499 6002 or Call Marilyn on 499 8403

No Agencies

HARLEY STREET

A caring secretary is needed to run established practice. Age is immaterial. Medical experience an advantage. Own light airy office. Word Processor etc. Tuition if needed. Salary negotiable.

Contact Juliette on 01-935 6698

Chislehurst MEP

Member of the European Parliament needs capable and highly motivated assistant to run his constituency office.

Graduate preferred. Must have: (a) reputation ability, (b) experience in a post of responsibility, (c) first-class WP and shorthand skills, (d) supporting personality. Based in Chislehurst in quiet location, mainly working solo. Salary: £14,500 (+ car allow).

Handwritten applications with typed cv to: Price MEP, 60 Marlborough Avenue, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6RD.

SUPERIOR PA

£15,000 + Neg

Tris PA secretarial position, progressive role. Director of Mayfair Co. Get involved with exciting and challenging client work and functions. Must be immaculately presented and speak excellent English.

Call Heather on 01 828 2727

TALISMAN SECRETARIAL

CORK STREET ART GALLERY

requires full time Secretary. Assist with good shorthand/typing. Salary according to experience. Apply in handwriting with CV to Box No 886.

KNIGHTSBRIAR SECRETARIAL

ARTSWORLD

613.000

For more details, please write to: Knightsbriar Secretarial, 31A Brompton Road, London W1 2LP

MAINE-TUR

MORTGAGE TO MORTGAGE SUB

£20,000 (inc)

For more details, please write to: Maine-Tur, 31A Brompton Road, London W1 2LP

KNIGHTSBRIAR SECRETARIAL

ARTSWORLD

613.000

For more details, please write to: Knightsbriar Secretarial, 31A Brompton Road, London W1 2LP

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

THE TOP END OF THE FINANCIAL MARKET

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BAKER STREET - c£18K PACKAGE

In an innovative financial organisation such as Abbey National it's not only our directors who work at senior level. As a secretary to our Finance Director you too will need a high degree of maturity and commitment to keep pace in a dynamic environment.

Besides good WP and shorthand skills, your ability to organise your work is essential. We'll rely on your initiative to give the right matters top priority.

You'll complement this with an assured all-round sense of how an office runs smoothly, won by several years experience, and the self-confidence to deal ably with people at all levels, both internally and externally.

Besides an outstanding salary, after a qualifying period there's our excellent pension scheme, private health insurance, mortgage subsidy and first class in-house sports facilities.

Send your CV to the Personnel Department, Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, or telephone for an application form on 01-486 5555 ext. 4466.

The closing date for applications, which are invited from all sectors of the community, is 2nd March, 1990.



5. IT'S ALL IN THE DELIVERY.

RETURNED FROM LUNCH TO BE GREETED BY CURIOUS NOISES FROM THE GREAT DICTATOR'S OFFICE.

CAUTIOUSLY I PEEPED ROUND THE DOOR. THERE HE WAS COWERING BEHIND THE CHEESEPLANT IN FRONT OF A GREASY, LEATHER-CLAD ASSAILANT.

"SOVN AN' PRINT 'ERE PLEASE," THE MISUNDERSTOOD COURIER KEPT REPEATING, POKING A DIRTY BALL POINT AT TGD.

"EXCUSE ME, HE DOESN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND" I SAID TO THE FRUSTRATED BIKER, DRAGGING HIM AWAY BY THE GLOVE.

A SIGNATURE AND A BLACK COFFEE LATER WITH TRANQUILITY RESTORED, I REFLECTED THAT IT'S NOT JUST THE FAMOUS THAT CAN'T COPE WITH AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS, AND TURNED TO THE ELIZABETH HUNT JOB PAGE.

FILM PREMIERE. TO £14K
THIS RAPIDLY EXPANDING CINEMA GROUP SEEKS A PA/SECRETARY TO A SENIOR EXECUTIVE. HE IS A GOOD BOSS AND REALLY KEEN TO FIND A TRUE ASSISTANT WHO WILL CONTRIBUTE IDEAS AND MAINTAIN CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS. SHAGGY MODERN W/ OFFICES 90/50. TEL: 01-240 3511.

AN INTERESTING MIX TO £15K - MORTGAGE
THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS PRESTIGIOUS CITY MERCHANT BANK SEEKS A CONFIDENT PERSON TO TAKE CHARGE OF HIS ACTIVE PERSONAL AND BUSINESS LIFE FROM HOLIDAYS TO HOMES TO RECEPTIONS AND IMPORTANT DINNERS. SUPERB BONUS AND LARGE MORTGAGE SUBSIDY. 100/50. TEL: 01-248 3744.

ELIZABETH HUNT
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HARTLEIGH

BILINGUAL JUNIOR £12,000
If you have just completed a good bilingual secretarial course then we are looking for someone to join our team. You will be working in a dynamic and fast-paced environment. You will be responsible for a wide range of administrative tasks. You will be working closely with the senior management. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

ACCOUNTS TYPIST EXTRAORDINAIRE £13,000
We are looking for a highly motivated and experienced accounts typist. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

LEGAL SECRETARY £13,500
This charming and young solicitor working in the heart of the City is looking for a highly motivated and experienced legal secretary. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

LOOKING FOR MONEY? £13,500 - £14,000
Real opportunity to earn a substantial salary. We are looking for a highly motivated and experienced professional. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

MUSIC TO YOUR EARS £14,000 - £15,000
This world famous music company with superb West End offices is looking for a highly motivated and experienced professional. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

THE DUTCH HOUSE
307-308 HIGH HOLBORN, WC1V 7LR
on 01-430 2291

29/31 OXFORD ST, W1R 1RE
01-734 5675

14 GREAT CASTLE STREET, OXFORD CIRCUS, W1A
01-255 3140

43 BROMPTON RD, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW3 1DE
01-225 1777

36-44 MOORGATE, EC2R 6EL
01-638 7003

**REQUIRE A
RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST/TYPIST**

The successful candidate will be ideally in their mid 20s, well spoken and with excellent presentation and previous reception experience. Working within a small organisation you will be liaising closely with all levels of people and therefore need to be confident, articulate, level headed and able to cope under pressure. Along with usual reception duties you will be required to carry out some typing, photocopying, filing, opening mail, keeping diaries, ordering stationery and data inputting. Full training will be given on our computer system.

Houses are 9 - 5.30 Monday to Friday. Salary is negotiable along with IFSTL, PPP, subsidised sports membership.

To apply please send full CV to
Miss S McKee, Regent Leasing Ltd,
97-101 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5BA
or telephone 01-623 3232 for further information.

Team Up
£16,000-£20,000

As a result of expansion, Crone Corkill is currently looking for a Temporary Controller to join its Temporary Division based in the City. Founded in 1977, Crone Corkill has expanded steadily over the years to become a market leader in the secretarial recruitment field and our team of director-level secretaries has established an excellent reputation.

The successful candidate will probably be aged 25-30, with A levels and a sound working knowledge of the City. The special personal qualities we seek are enthusiasm, backbone and a commitment to work hard for high rewards. An ability to make decisions at speed, a good memory and an unfailing sense of humour are essential!

The recruitment industry is a lively business which offers great job satisfaction and infinite variety. People who make a success of it come from a wide range of backgrounds. We are a closely-knit team of independent individuals, each of whom is expected to make a real contribution to the whole and there is still space on the management team for people with the talent to help run the company.

Please contact Anabel Crone on 01-588 3535 or write to her at 18-25 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LA.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

The Risk Business
£17,000 + Banking Benefits

As PA to this dynamic young corporate financier, you will need to be entirely flexible and ready to tackle whatever secretarial and administrative tasks come your way. You will be following your boss throughout the organisation on a trouble-shooting exercise designed to consolidate and further develop its corporate finance activities within Europe. This is a new position which will involve setting up systems, research, contact with clients, as well as ad hoc projects requiring tact, diplomacy and the ability to work without supervision. Knowledge of French an advantage. Age: 25-35 Skills: 100/60.

**RECRUITMENT
COMPANY**
01-631 1226 5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AB

MEDIA CAREERS
£9,500-13,500

As a major force in Media Recruitment Christopher Keats recruits for most of the

FILM, TV, ADVERTISING, PR & MAGAZINE

companies in Central and Greater London. If you are seeking a media career and are prepared to use your secretarial skills in return for total involvement, responsibility and prospects, contact the Media Specialists on:

01-379 4164 or 379 0344 until 8pm

RIGHT HAND FOR HEAD HUNTER
£18000 WC3

The magnetic personality of this Vice President for leading int'l executive search company makes him a character in the City and exciting boss in WC3. To help him, he needs a tactful, sensitive PA with a lively sense of humour who thrives on the hectic atmosphere of Chairman/President level. The ideal candidate will have 'A' levels, superb grooming and 90/65 + WP skills. Age 24-35.

PARTY PLANNING
£13000 W.8

This is a great opportunity for a secretary to get totally involved in organising events such as polo days at Smiths Lawn and lunches at the Houses of Commons. Previous experience an advantage. Fast WP needed. Age 24-30.

JIGSAW

MOSSCOS LIMITED
RENOVATION RESTORATION
REFURBISHMENT
FULHAM SW6

Age 23-27. Are you alert, able to drive, efficient, numerate and have sec. skills (no s/h)? Could you run our fast expanding office and cope with the responsibility of each frantic but never dull day? Fax me your CV or call Amanda Griffiths

Tel: 01-371 5166
Fax: 01-371 5332

Prove your worth at this critical time
Blackfriars c£15,000

The General Manager for Post Office Counter Automation needs a high calibre Secretary to help him drive through a £200-million automation initiative. This will automate customer transactions in our many branches to provide a greatly enhanced service.

This is an exciting new development to which considerable prestige is attached. It will involve you with a large project team and handling enquiries from many sources including the press and media.

You will need a flexible and professional approach, good communication skills and be able to organise under pressure. You will have first class audio and technical proficiency in word processing systems. Some familiarity with computer systems would be an advantage.

The benefits include a starting salary of c£15,000 depending on experience, and a contributory pension scheme. There are promotion openings within the Business.

Interested? If so please ring Clive Foulkes on 01-922 1188 for further details and an application form, or send your CV to him at Post Office Counters Limited, ref sps, Room 423 Drury House, Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 9UA.

The Post Office is an equal opportunities employer.

Post Office Counters
The UK's largest retail network

FASHION CO - EXECUTIVE OFFICE
c£11,000 at 18+

Superb opportunity for a bright, young secretary to gain experience with top level management. Assisting the PA to the MD of this very successful fashion group - this is a responsible position in a luxurious office offering lots of opportunities. Shortlisted candidates preferred - great benefits!

HODGE
01-629 8863

EXEC PA
£13K + BENS

Major City based Co require capable & enthusiastic person to work as 'right hand' to the General Manager. Essential talents are initiative, organisational ability and competent sec skills within the financial sector. Call 01 283 5914 Keystone Recruitment

REFORM CLUB
PERSONAL SECRETARY

to the Secretary of the Club. First class secretarial skills required with good shorthand and experience for a willingness to acquire it if of word processing. Four weeks holiday per year and free meals on duty. £1,000 per annum. Applications to The Secretary, Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, LONDON, SW1Y 6EW

PERSONAL ASSISTANT to the Executive Director

UniForum UK is one of 18 international organisations funded by the computer industry to promote 'future-proof' computing and communications. It does this through non-technical, marketing related activities: advertising, publishing, seminars, promotional events and providing information services.

The growth of UniForum UK has created a new position: PA to the Executive Director - this is not a secretarial job. Initial responsibilities will be for the day-to-day supervision and operation of office activities but the opportunity exists to develop a career in either administration/accounting management or in a marketing role.

Salary and benefits will depend on experience. Please wire with your 'CV' to:

UniForum UK
The Executive Director,
UniForum UK,
Care House,
1-3 St John's Square,
London EC1M 4DH

Maine-Tucker
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MORTGAGE TO YOUR MORTGAGE SUBSIDY?
Pkg £20,000 (inc Subsidy)

You want to change jobs but the interest rate is so high you must... there's no alternative... they've got you... or have they? Here's a chance to join a superb company and be properly paid for your efforts. We are looking for someone who wants to be paid to a superior level of competence. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

There are money jobs here now at Main-Tucker. We are looking for a highly motivated and experienced professional. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office.

50 Pall Mall St, London SW1Y 6LR Telephone 01-925 8640

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

ARTSWORLD
c£13,000

We have exciting positions with Impressionists and Contemporary Art departments. Working at a senior level with forward thinking team, these are lively positions with a lot of client contact. Our department will need fluent spoken French for liaison with Europe. If you enjoy a busy environment and have good 90/60 skills this could be the opportunity you have been waiting for.

Call us now Sally Owens or Mary Pettit on 01-225 8427
Knightsbridge Secretaries, 31A Gloane St, LONDON SW1

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
To £24,000 ++

Energy, enthusiasm and motivation are what we are looking for in professionals to fill key roles in our sales team. If you have a sales background we can offer excellent prospects, high financial rewards including Co car scheme and an exciting environment.

Tel Sarah on 408-2264

ADMINISTRATOR
To £14,000

Interesting & varied post in Head office of young & friendly Co. Duties include personnel admin, copywriting of adverts, office control and much more.

A good all rounder required with a strong personality and plenty of initiative.

Tel Sarah on 408-2264

CHELSEA ESTATE AGENTS

Require a hard working, enthusiastic secretary for small thriving office. Warm less important than organisational ability & willingness to 'muck in' £11000 pa. Ref: JT 01-584 6391

PIMLICO SW1 REC/SEC

For lively surveys and Estate Agents. Close to Victoria Station. Age 20-25. Salary c£12,000. Telephone 01-834 8000.

career in Publicity

Y DIRECTOR

C. £18K

Chislehurst MEP

SUPERIOR PA

TALISMAN SECRETARIAL

CORK STREET ART GALLERY

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

DRAKE PERSONNEL

This Valentine's. Let Drake propose to you, a new future.

EXPLORE THE OIL BUSINESS
\$12,000 + BEN.
Based in beautiful offices in Leicester Square this is an opportunity to join an international oil co. This is a chance to develop your organisational skills. With full training given, you can learn Desk Top Publishing - if you have excellent WP skills and are looking to use your brain! Call Julia Kittingbeck on 01-631 0666.

A BEELINE INTO BANKING
\$14,500 + MORT. SUB.
Immerse yourself totally in this PA role, assisting two MDs of a specialist division within this prestigious merchant bank. Confidentiality is the key, as you handle highly sensitive information. Your organisational skills coupled with exc. s/h talents will guarantee your success. Call Karina Baird on 01-633 1224.

But, before we discuss jobs, we will discuss you. What interests you, what skills you have. Your ambitions. We can then see where you're most likely to develop your true potential. Where you can find a sense of fulfilment. We'll aim to match you to the right environment. If training helps, we'll also provide that. So, add another string to your bow, and call Drake now.



It's the difference

ARE YOU LOOKING TO FURTHER YOUR CAREER?
Change your career? Obtain career advice? If so, we have numerous vacancies which will allow you to explore your talents. For confidential advice on salary trends in 1990, call Debbie Thrift or Eamonn McIlroy on 01-634 0388.

RECEP/SECRETARY - KITCHEN DESIGN CO.
\$11,000
This int. kitchen design co. are seeking a bright, articulate Recep./WP Sec. to front their beautiful showroom in W1. Working with a team of young designers you will enjoy a varied and busy role within a lively atmosphere. Your initiative and org. skills will be rewarded with exc. opps. for progression within the company. Call Dawn Bailey on 01-639 4031.

PA - RUN THE OFFICE
\$12,000 NEG.
A superb career role offering autonomy, variety and responsibility - organise trade shows, meetings, liaise with clients in this dynamic environment! Top benefits for someone who loves to "think on their feet". Arrange an immediate interview by calling Yvette Roberts on 01-734 0911.

BOND STREET
01-629 4031CITY
01-623 1226HAMMERSMITH
01-646 9787HOLBORN
01-631 0666KNIGHTSBRIDGE
01-589 5399STRAFORD
01-519 6343VICTORIA
01-634 0388WEST END
01-734 0911Training & Recruitment
£12,000 - Chiswick

No Personnel experience necessary to take on this great career opportunity offered by one of the country's largest Property auction houses. Working out of modern, hi-tech offices in Chiswick and reporting to the Head of Personnel, you will be helping to set up new systems; arranging assessment interviews for trainee negotiators; liaising with recruitment agencies; setting up staff training sessions etc. A confident, outgoing personality needed. Typing 45 wpm essential (only 10% secretarial) as is the ability to deal with people at every level. If you're young and ambitious call 01-493 0713 to hear more.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

A votre santé
To £13,000 + LV's

The sloping vineyards of France are familiar territory to our client who boasts a wealth of distinguished and exclusive labels. Two directors, both hardworking and energetic individuals need a discreet, socially-confident PA to take on a right hand role. Excellent organisational skills for corporate hospitality events essential. Extensive liaison with France, so good French useful. Skills (80/60) and the ability to juggle and prioritise your time most effectively taken as read. Age 25+. Call 01-493 0713 for more details.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

Better British Design

Government-funded body set up to promote and improve product design in British industry and commerce, seeks well educated, professional individuals to join their Advertising and Editorial departments. Responsibilities will incorporate the preparation of mailshots, orders, invoices, liaison with production staff re ad copy dealing with editorial enquiries, picture research, organising and attending exhibitions, conferences etc. Flexibility, good organisational ability and sound secretarial skills (80/40) vital. Salary to £11,500 + benefits. For details call 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE WORK SHOP

Committed to expansion...

PR - £11,500

Offbeat, front-line opening for a switched-on, totally organised self-starter. Team up with this high-profile, progressive PR agency and you team up with two very 'together' individuals - one an Account Director, the other an Account Exec. Enjoy lots of client interface, organising press conferences, workshops, carrying out research, contacting journalists, monitoring forward feature lists and producing press releases, brochures, presentation documents etc. Initiative is crucial! If you're enthusiastic, fun to have around and at your best in a fast paced environment - with the skills to match - call us today on 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE WORK SHOP

THE GERMAN DEAL
£14,000 + MORTGAGE

You have good spoken and written German and a strong personality to assist 2 head dealers at a major international bank in EC2. The pace is fast and frenetic, the language probably not restricted to hoch deutsch and the job demanding! Good WP skills, no shorthand or audio.

Call 377 2666 City
or 439 7001 West End

SECRETARIES PLUS

£16,000
TO THE BARI!

Enjoy an international environment with this American law firm in beautiful offices in St James's. Working for 2 senior barristers (both English) you will provide a secretarial role utilising your shorthand, audio and previous legal experience.

Call 439 7001 West End
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SECRETARIES PLUS

A WORDPERFECT WONDER!
£15,000 + MORTGAGE

A cosmopolitan trio are yours as PA/SECRETARY at a major City bank in EC2. Handling systems, premises, finance and admin, you won't have time to be bored! A generous banking package including mortgage subsidy worth over £4,000 a year is offered if you are 25-35 with shorthand and good Wordperfect skills.

Call 377 2666 City
or 439 7001 West End

SECRETARIES PLUS

FOURTH SECRETARIAL
Job FairTHURSDAY, MARCH 1ST
NOON TIL 8.00PM

WALDORF HOTEL, ALDWYCH

Come and interview with many leading London firms anxious to recruit secretaries, typists, and WP operators. After comparing the large variety of jobs on offer, decide which companies you'd like to visit, then line up second interviews on the spot. No fuss, no pressure, no wasted time. Salaries range from £10-14,000; college leavers welcome; bring lots of CVs. See you there! If you have any questions, call Jo Travers or Charlotte Woodward on: 01-408 0424

RTZ

Tate

70-71 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1Y 9DE

UNITED DUTCH SHIPPING
PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY
TO
CHAIRMAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE

United Dutch Shipping's new chairman and chief executive urgently requires an experienced personal assistant/secretary to work in his busy Mayfair office.

United Dutch Shipping is already well-established and has ambitious international expansion plans. A good working knowledge of European languages would consequently be an advantage, but is not essential.

Candidates should have outstanding administrative skills and previous experience of working with management at senior levels. A good general standard of education is required together with the shorthand and typing speeds appropriate to the position.

An outstanding pay and benefits package is offered including: top salary, bonus scheme, medical insurance and four weeks holiday.

Applications plus cv in writing please to: Mark Rhodes, United Dutch (UK) Ltd., 22 Gilbert Street, London W1Y 1RG.

JO PETERS & ASSOCIATE

Recruitment Consultants

Secretary/Administrator up to £12,500
A position in a medium-sized Design Company; confident administrator with 2 years' experience needed to keep the studio running smoothly and work as PA to the Director.

Senior Secretary/Personal Asst.
£7,500 Salary
Working for the Chairman of an international Design Company, this demanding role calls for a really professional PA with a talent for organisation.

PA to Design Director
£14,000 and full range of benefits
An excellent opportunity to join a genuinely progressive multinational company. An organised team player who will respond effectively to pressure. Call Marina for further details 01 258 1017

Next Step
£15,000

The charming Director-General of a major market research organisation is looking for an equally charming and capable right hand. If you would like to make a move into office management and secretarial recruitment and are happy attending meetings and writing your own correspondence, this could be an interesting next step. Skills 70/50. Age 25-35.

Please call Fiona

Sawthorne on 01-437

6032

HOBSTONES

INSTITUTE OF

OPHTHALMOLOGY

(Universities of London)

PERSONAL

ASSISTANT

Qualified PA/Administrative

Secretary required for the Head of

the Department of Visual Science.

This Academic Department is an

active part of the Institute, which

conducts research and teaches

students in the field of eye

diseases of the eye. The post

is challenging and offers

opportunities for personal

development. A full

range of PA skills is required and

knowledge of WordPerfect an

advantage. Confidentiality

scheme operates. Salary within

the range £12,000 - £13,500 inc. LA.

Applications by cv plus two

references to Professor A. Sills

at the following address, from

monday morning onwards. En

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01-481 4481

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01-481 4481

TV Post Production

To £13,500 - WI

Absolutely brilliant opportunity to work with the really easy going, hugely successful senior Director of a leading TV post production company. They specialise in pop promos, corporate videos and TV commercials, and now seek a gregarious, strong, impeccably presented PA who will thrive in a sales/client service environment. Masses of client contact - negotiating on the finance side of production. Immense potential with lots of variety and involvement. Skills (80/60) requested. Good client liaison experience? Bags of initiative? Prepared to have a go at anything? We'd love to hear from you on 01-409 1232.

THE WORK SHOP

Recruitment Consultants to the Communications Industry

WP expert/Admin Assistant

To £13,000 + mortgage subsidy

Open, purposeful Computer software house with specific interests in the international banking sector seeks a confident, reliable self-starter to join them in a key and demanding role. You'll be typing documents, reports, proposals, user manuals etc. arranging business trips for staff, organising in-house training courses and catering facilities; booking couriers; raising invoices, maintaining files etc. A professional, efficient telephone manner, advanced WP skills and the ability to work under pressure in a busy team environment are essential. Age 20+. To know more about this busy company, call 01-493 0713 today.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

MEPC

Senior Secretary

c £13,000 pa

MEPC plc is one of the most prominent, long established and successful property companies in the world. We employ about 900 staff internationally and our property holdings are valued currently in excess of £3.7 billion.

Our Shopping Centres team wishes to recruit a Secretary to work for our Projects Manager and for one of our Development Surveyors. Based in pleasant surroundings in our Head Office in Park Lane and working in a friendly atmosphere, the position will entail the provision of full secretarial, organisational and administrative support. Involving varied and interesting work on our multi-million pound shopping centre projects throughout the UK.

The ideal candidate will be a non-smoker, aged between 28 to 40, with a sound knowledge of the Olivetti ETV260, together with Wordperfect 5.0 and Lotus 123.

Shorthand will not be required, but impeccable secretarial, organisational and communication skills are essential. A background in property would be an added advantage.

In addition to a competitive salary, MEPC offers an attractive range of company benefits (some subject to a qualifying period) including free luncheon facilities, BUPA and pension membership, interest-free season ticket loan, house or home improvement loan and profit sharing.

Applications are invited in writing with detailed CV to: Graham S Coulson, Personnel Manager, MEPC plc, Brook House, 113 Park Lane, London W1Y 4AY.

MATURE OFFICE MANAGER

£10,000 + PERKS

This small and friendly private company require a mature Office Administrator. Someone who can deal with everything from answering office calls, answering the telephone through to arranging meetings and accounts, for the Managing Director. If you enjoy being left to your own devices and want to work at your own pace, please call Julie...

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-584 6242

ANY MORE BIDS?

£12,500

The International Auction House requires a top tip at round P.A. Administrator to work very closely with the Directors. Lots of involvement. The ideal candidate must have excellent skills including shorthand and be able to work on their own initiative. Please call Beverly...

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-584 6242

OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 19TH

Due to the success of our last Open Day, we are happy once again to invite you to join us for a glass of champagne and an informal chat. Come in and see us anytime up to 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 20 February. Whatever you are looking for - be it Arts or Antiques, P.R. or Media, or something out of the ordinary - our Consultants are here to help. Julie, Beverly, Sara and Maria 10 Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, London SW3 01-584 6242

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-584 6242

CONSULTANTS IN MAYFAIR

£13,000 + BENEFITS

This is an excellent opportunity for a bright Secretary/P.A. to a busy and successful company. You will be typing documents, reports, proposals, user manuals etc. arranging business trips for staff, organising in-house training courses and catering facilities; booking couriers; raising invoices, maintaining files etc. A professional, efficient telephone manner, advanced WP skills and the ability to work under pressure in a busy team environment are essential. Age 20+. To know more about this busy company, call 01-493 0713 today.

Susan Beck

RECRUITMENT 01-584 6242

UNDER DOCTORS ORDERS

£14,000 + BENEFITS

Problem solving, client liaison and project coordinating. This is an excellent opportunity for a bright Secretary/P.A. to a busy and successful company. You will be typing documents, reports, proposals, user manuals etc. arranging business trips for staff, organising in-house training courses and catering facilities; booking couriers; raising invoices, maintaining files etc. A professional, efficient telephone manner, advanced WP skills and the ability to work under pressure in a busy team environment are essential. Age 20+. To know more about this busy company, call 01-493 0713 today.

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100 Church Street
Enfield
Middlesex
EN2 6BQ
Telephone: 01-366 1177DATA
CONNECTION

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

Are you looking for:

- a real challenge - a place to develop and finally belong?
- employment in a young, lively environment?
- the opportunity to use your excellent secretarial skills?

If you:

- are young (at least at heart), articulate, versatile and energetic
- have at least 5 'O' Levels (including Maths & English)

then please apply to Data Connection.

We are a flourishing British computer software engineering company developing advanced and complex communications, graphics, retail point of sale and other terminal systems.

Based in modern offices close to Enfield Town (north London) and local transport facilities, we employ over 100 people and are looking for a shorthand secretary to look after two of our Directors (both about 30). This is a busy, demanding and varied position which requires:

- a minimum shorthand speed of 80wpm and wordprocessing (we use Wordstar 4)
- good organisational and interpersonal skills
- the ability to work as part of a fun-loving and hardworking team.

Secretaries in Data Connection enjoy:

- an excellent package of modern company benefits
- a programme of reviews, assessments and real profit sharing
- lively company culture.

Starting salary is not normally a problem.

One further point - no one in our office smokes.

Please apply to Vicci White at the above address.

PA / SECRETARY

to Director of Personnel

Up to £12,000 (Reviewed April)
Central London

- The National Trust, Britain's leading conservation charity, has over 2,500 employees located throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

- Looking after salary, training and development in such a large, dispersed organisation is a major task, which is why our Director of Personnel is looking for a rather special PA/Secretary to assist her.

- You will provide the Director with a complete secretarial and administrative support service, a task which will make full use of your shorthand, audio and WP skills. Most importantly, you'll have the opportunity to contribute directly to the successful development of an efficient and effective personnel service within the Trust.

- The role calls for an education to at least 'A' level standard, backed by a minimum of two years' secretarial experience at a senior level, preferably gained within a progressive Personnel environment.

- Calm under pressure, you'll have ample scope to exercise your initiative, tact and excellent organisational and communication skills.

- In addition to a competitive salary and benefits package (reviewed in April), you'll also enjoy the friendly atmosphere of our attractive office building overlooking St James' Park.

- Please write with full career details or telephone for further information to: Martine Postle, Personnel Assistant, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS. Tel: 01-222 9251.



THE NATIONAL TRUST

On Top

Shorthand Secretary

£14,000 + Benefits, EC3

Want to boss your own boss? Our client, a prestigious advertising company, seek a S.H./WP. Sec. (80/70) with excellent organisational skills to work for the director of the corporate division. The post offers an interesting variety of responsibilities, with good prospects for the right person.

Contact Sharon Eaton at:

On Top Recruitment Ltd

71 Watling Street, London EC4M 9DD

Telephone 01-929 4133

EXECUTIVE SEARCH

£16,000 plus bonus

A chance to make your mark right at the beginning by joining this established, international Consultancy, based in beautiful offices just off Pall Mall. As Personal Assistant to their new Associate you can help each other to settle in and together make a noticeable and valid contribution to this professional, renowned organisation. This one-to-one position calls for a mature and diplomatic approach, you will be involved in regular liaison with Clients and Candidates at a very senior level, organising appointments and a hectic diary, arranging catering and utilising your excellent typing and audio skills. Interviewing now - call Sue or Daniela for further information.

01-497 8003

SUSAN DOUGHTY

RECRUITMENT

Suite 314, Bedford Chambers, North Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2

Personnel Secretary

Television Company

To £14,000 pa AAE

Based in designer Covent Garden offices, this is a secretarial role with a difference. An 'A' level person with good shorthand and typing skills, who perhaps doesn't feel stretched enough in their current role, will discover a healthy range of responsibility, including "initial" interviewing of candidates, when they act as "Number Two" to the busy Personnel and Administration Executive. Benefits are attractive, making the role an offer extremely popular. Call Ros Prescott on 01-491-1888. La Creme Consultants.

Creative Creme

PA OFFICE/MANAGER

INITIATIVE, ENTHUSIASM, EFFICIENCY, ORGANISATIONAL ABILITY, DISCRETION.

These are the qualities we absolutely need. If you've worked at Director level in a fairly hectic environment (Advertising? Sales? Magazines?) you could be the person for us. We offer the challenge of sorting out our office, plus the opportunity to contribute to our business.

Offices based in beautiful 19th century Grosvenor Castle (3/4 in Oxford, 1/2 in Stratford, 20 mins Cheltenham). Write and tell us why we should interview you. Top salary commensurate with experience.

Major Nicholas Lawson
Managing Director
Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe
Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 5JD

Diana

Duggan

Associates

A TOUCH OF MONTECARLO IN BANKING
(Fluent French)
This is a superb position for a PA with fluent French assisting an American Chairman of one of the most EIGHTY firms in the world. Responsibilities include: typing, travel arrangements, phone immediately on 01 274 2521 (Box Rec. Conf.)

MANPOWER

WP SECRETARIES

Superb opportunities for shorthand secretaries with experience of:

Multimate Advantage 2

Dec-All-in-1

or

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Plus free cross training onto most of the major systems, and other benefits including holiday and bank holiday pay.

Please call us today on:

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THE NEXT STEP

£12,000 + banking benefits

An excellent opportunity

for a bright, enthusiastic

secretary to join the

staff of a leading

company in the City.

You will be working at the

most senior level in a

highly professional

environment and have the

opportunity to develop your

organisational skills when

assisting the Chairman's

PA with his busy schedule.

Travel arrangements and

Board meetings as well as

providing secretarial

support directly to him and

acting as senior PA in his

absence.

If you are enthusiastic,

self-motivated and looking

for the next step to a

senior level career as a

PA, contact us on:

Age 20-25 100/60

Angela Mortimer

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WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO

£19,500

Providing the ultimate private

banking service naturally

demands the ultimate in

administrative support. And as

Senior Secretary to our client,

you will be doing precisely that.

Working exclusively for the

Director of Information

Services in superb West End

surroundings, your

professionalism and diplomacy

should be matched by first

class organisational and

development skills as well as

a familiarity with a number of

software packages. With

shorthand and typing speeds of

80 wpm, you'll also be an

effective communicator and

empathy contact with clients.

As well as receiving an

excellent salary package, you'll

find the opportunities for real

development are extensive

within this exciting, fast-paced

company.

Age 20-25 100/60

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PART TIME VACANCIES

3 Days a week. Mature Secretary

required to work for the

Director of a leading

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You will be working at the

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PA with his busy schedule.

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If you are enthusiastic,

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RELOCATION CONSULTANT

£12,000

Use of car

Must have excellent

knowledge of London and

home counties. Property

experience and European

language an asset. Pre-1960

experience essential.

CV 100/60 for further info.

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MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

GLOBAL el valor de la experiencia

THE GLOBAL GROUP OF COMPANIES
MALAGA - ENGLISH/SPANISH P.A.
for Europe's largest Home-Ownership company

MANAGING DIRECTOR BASED IN MALAGA needs a highly efficient and experienced PA with style and drive, to assist him in the day to day running of a fast moving and dynamic company.

Applicants may be of any EEC nationality but must be fluent in English and Spanish (other European languages, particularly French, useful) and have excellent organisational and secretarial skills (including minute writing). Ideal age range: 27 - 35.

Solid career prospects in the international leisure/property business are open to the successful applicant, as well as an attractive salary + relocation allowance.

Please write with full Curriculum Vitae to:
Sheila Burgess International Personnel Counsellors
The Power House, Alpha Place, London SW3 5SZ
tel: 01-351 6931 fax: 01-376 8240 or
11 rue de la Boetie, 75008 Paris
tel: (1) 47 42 87 52 fax: (1) 42 66 92 96

PARIS BRUSSELS

SE THERE AT THE START Brand new office of well-known British city law firm opening in Paris is looking for a young British secretary with one of two years experience to provide secretarial support for small teams of new arrivals from London with less French than they have. Short-term contract, 10.500000, 13.000000, 15.000000, 17.000000, 19.000000, 21.000000, 23.000000, 25.000000, 27.000000, 29.000000, 31.000000, 33.000000, 35.000000, 37.000000, 39.000000, 41.000000, 43.000000, 45.000000, 47.000000, 49.000000, 51.000000, 53.000000, 55.000000, 57.000000, 59.000000, 61.000000, 63.000000, 65.000000, 67.000000, 69.000000, 71.000000, 73.000000, 75.000000, 77.000000, 79.000000, 81.000000, 83.000000, 85.000000, 87.000000, 89.000000, 91.000000, 93.000000, 95.000000, 97.000000, 99.000000, 101.000000, 103.000000, 105.000000, 107.000000, 109.000000, 111.000000, 113.000000, 115.000000, 117.000000, 119.000000, 121.000000, 123.000000, 125.000000, 127.000000, 129.000000, 131.000000, 133.000000, 135.000000, 137.000000, 139.000000, 141.000000, 143.000000, 145.000000, 147.000000, 149.000000, 151.000000, 153.000000, 155.000000, 157.000000, 159.000000, 161.000000, 163.000000, 165.000000, 167.000000, 169.000000, 171.000000, 173.000000, 175.000000, 177.000000, 179.000000, 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GOLF

Faldo must find his master's touch to land unique treble

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Melbourne

The trick for Nick Faldo in the Australian Masters, which starts here on Thursday on the Huntingdale course, will be to discover the putting touch which enabled him to win both the British and United States Masters last year.

Faldo cherishes the thought of winning a third Masters title world-wide, especially in the knowledge that if he removes this one from the grasp of Greg Norman he could return home in first position in the Sony World Rankings.

He is well aware that the touch which helped him to be the best player in the world in 1989, as well as earning him such accolades as BBC Personality of the Year and Ritz Club Golfer of the Year, has momentarily deserted him.

"I was not as aggressive as I would have liked to have been during the Nissan Super Skins in Queensland last weekend," Faldo said. "I was not too unhappy with the way I played but I would like to get my act together on the greens."

The greens at Huntingdale are true, if a touch softer than usual, and Faldo will need to be in a positive frame of mind if he is to become a unique treble by becoming the first player to hold at the same time the Masters titles of Australia, Britain and the United States.

Not only is this his first 72-

Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	345	4	13	174	3
2	365	4	14	152	3
3	325	4	15	152	3
4	325	4	16	152	3
5	325	4	17	152	3
6	325	4	18	152	3
7	325	4	19	152	3
8	325	4	20	152	3
9	325	4	21	152	3
10	325	4	22	152	3
11	325	4	23	152	3
12	325	4	24	152	3

Total yardage: 3,905 Par: 72

man extinguished Claydon's dream with a final round of 68.

Not that Claydon is complaining. "That tournament set me up for the rest of the year," he said. "And it also gave amateur golf a higher profile at home, which is good for the game."

Claydon has some way to go to be recognized at the same level as the likes of Curtis Strange, Faldo and Norman, all of whom he still feels he can beat this week, but he at least did not have to hitch-hike his way home, which was the case for the American, Richard Gilkey.

He has been fined Aus \$300 by the Australian PGA for not arriving for the Australian match-play championship last week, although the committee has displayed some compassion by deferring payment in the knowledge that the 25-year-old American is apparently penniless.

"I went to Perth two weeks ago for a tournament on a one-way ticket, failed to make any money after suffering from food poisoning and then hitch-hiked my way back across the Nullarbor Plain," Gilkey explained.

The complete story of how he went from one truck-stop to the next, sleeping between lifts by the roadside in his golfing wet suit, is right out of Huckleberry Finn and Norman, who arrived in his private jet, Faldo and Strange would have difficulty relating to it.

Waites impatient to be 50

From Patricia Davies, Phoenix

Jack Nicklaus hated turning 50. Brian Waites cannot wait. Trim and spry as a man many years younger, Waites reaches the magic number on March 1 and longs to test his competitive prowess on the senior tour in America, having received a special invitation to play in the \$400,000 Senior PGA Championship at West Palm Beach in Florida in April.

In preparation, the former Ryder Cup player was keeping younger men at bay in the first round of the \$300,000 Arizona World Ping-pong at Mesa, Cornish Ranch in Phoenix on

Monday. His 70 left him tied for second place, one shot behind Claude Grenier, a Canadian try and earn enough money to be exempt from qualifying. If I don't manage that, though, I'll definitely go to the school in November. If I get my card, it gives me a problem: should I give up my job at Halliwell?

Waites had 16 pars in a row before finishing with two birdies and said: "That's the best round of golf I've played for some time. I was delighted to get the invitation from America because it came out of the blue and it'll give me a chance to see if I can be competitive."

"I'm turning 50 at just the right time, with Lee Trevino and Nicklaus that age, though perhaps if they finish one-two in everything it'll be the wrong

time. I'm going to try and get a few sponsors' invitations to satisfy myself I can compete and try and earn enough money to be exempt from qualifying. If I don't manage that, though, I'll definitely go to the school in November. If I get my card, it gives me a problem: should I give up my job at Halliwell?

Waites was born in 1919, in Croydon, Surrey. He was a professional golfer for 20 years, winning 10 titles. He was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and the PGA of England. He was a member of the PGA of Australia from 1960 to 1970. He was a member of the PGA of America from 1970 to 1980. He was a member of the PGA of South Africa from 1980 to 1990. He was a member of the PGA of New Zealand from 1990 to 2000. He was a member of the PGA of Canada from 2000 to 2010. He was a member of the PGA of Mexico from 2010 to 2020. He was a member of the PGA of the United States from 2020 to 2030. He was a member of the PGA of the United Kingdom from 2030 to 2040. He was a member of the PGA of the Republic of Ireland from 2040 to 2050. He was a member of the PGA of the Commonwealth from 2050 to 2060. He was a member of the PGA of the World from 2060 to 2070. He was a member of the PGA of the Universe from 2070 to 2080. He was a member of the PGA of the Galaxy from 2080 to 2090. He was a member of the PGA of the Cosmos from 2090 to 2100. He was a member of the PGA of the Future from 2100 to 2110. He was a member of the PGA of the Past from 2110 to 2120. He was a member of the PGA of the Present from 2120 to 2130. He was a member of the PGA of the Future from 2130 to 2140. He was a member of the PGA of the Past from 2140 to 2150. He was a member of the PGA of the Present from 2150 to 2160. He was a member of the PGA of the Future from 2160 to 2170. He was a member of the PGA of the Past from 2170 to 2180. He was a member of the PGA of the Present from 2180 to 2190. He was a member of the PGA of the Future from 2190 to 2200. He was a member of the PGA of the Past from 2200 to 2210. He was a member of the PGA of the Present from 2210 to 2220. He was a member of the PGA of the Future from 2220 to 2230. He was a member of the PGA of the Past from 2230 to 2240. 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BOXING

Douglas undisputed champion as ruling bodies change mind

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

In the teeth of a storm of protests, Don King, the promoter, Jose Sulaiman, the president of the World Boxing Association, and Gilberto Mendoza, the president of the World Boxing Council, beat a retreat from the positions they held on Monday.

The three men had tried to stop Douglas being declared the world heavyweight champion on a technicality after the O'Han had knocked out Mike Tyson in the tenth round in Tokyo on Sunday.

They had claimed that because the referee, Octavio Meyran Sanchez, had given Douglas a long count of 13 in the eighth round, the contest was void. Yesterday they accepted Douglas as the undisputed champion.

By the time King had reached New York, Sulaiman had touched down at Los Angeles on the way to his Mexico City headquarters and Mendoza was on the approach to Caracas airport, world opinion, informed and otherwise, had caught up with them. National bodies, promoters, referees, newspapers and even members of the WBC executive committee had joined the protest.

Sulaiman said: "On my way back from Japan, and stopping in Los Angeles, I contacted the members of the executive council of the WBC in the five continents and they unanimously demanded that we declare officially Buster Douglas as the champion of the world."

"I presented Buster Douglas with the championship belt after the fight, and I believe that's the belt he's wearing. The WBC never stated that we would not recognize him as champion."

"I might have made a personal mistake, which I accept, of withholding the opinion of the result of the fight until I talked with the executive board members, instead of expressing mine immediately."

King claimed that he had never sought to deprive Douglas of the belt but protested to obtain a rematch. "There is no doubt an error was made by the referee but I never asked anybody to change the decision. We just want a first shot at a rematch. I have not asked for modification of the rule."

It was just as well that the world bodies had come to their senses. Duane Ford, of the influential Nevada commission and the WBC's international secretary, threatened to resign if the WBC did not recognize Douglas.

"If the WBC reverses this decision, I'm long gone from boxing," he said.

Mark Reefer, the Commonwealth super-featherweight champion from Bethnal Green, gets his chance to win the European title and lose his small hall image when he challenges Daniel Lomas, of France, at Brentwood tonight.

Reefer defended his title impressively against Sam Akromah, of Ghana, last December, but somehow managed to remain what the trade calls "a crowd pleaser".

Reefer was flattened in one round by Robert Dickie, of Wales, in three by John Feeley, a boxer rather than a puncher, in four by Belaid Khalid, of France, and in 10 by Mo Hussein, of West Ham. Yet here he is boxing for a European title and, if he wins, a world title chance will follow. Everybody loves a man who can get up off the floor and win, usually by flooring the other man.

Reefer's best performance was against John Sichula, of Ghana. He could not blow the champion away with big punches but hung on to get the verdict.

This one could easily be a typical Reefer show, with both men having to pick themselves up off the floor. They have had enough practice at it. But at the end of the fight, Reefer should be the one standing in the neutral corner. The Englishman has a good punch and Lomas, aged 35, may not be able to take one on his chin too well.

That the champion can box is clear from his draw with Jean Marc Renard, the tough Belgian, in 1986. Reefer has always had trouble with boxers who can punch because his chin cannot stand up to too many well-placed blows.

But the challenger is nothing if not determined and with an advantage of 10 years, he should have too much power for the ageing champion and should win inside the distance.

this organization. The WBC and WBA can pack their tents and fold them. I think they're finished."

Mexican journalists suggested that if Sanchez had not taken the blame, he would have been blacklisted by the WBC and by King. The sports newspaper, *Esto*, called Sanchez a victim of "the big interests vested in the world heavyweight title, particularly of keeping the Mike Tyson myth alive."

Even as undisputed champion, Douglas still does not know what he can do and what he cannot. He is contracted to meet Evander Holyfield at Atlantic City on June 18, but Donald Trump, the property millionaire, who owns more than a few planks of the Atlantic City Boardwalk, said he had a contract with King for the rematch.

How did Trump know there was going to be a rematch? "We made the deal a little while ago," he told the *New York Times*. Slightly later, a secretary from Trump's office told the newspaper to "hold the story until he [Trump] gets the documents signed."

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The man guiding minnows Rochdale to an historic cup tie at Crystal Palace

MARTIN MEYRICK

Dolan's triumph already secured



By Ian Ross

If success in sport is relative to the circumstances and resources of its competitors, the football season can already be hailed as a triumph for Rochdale, the fourth division club, irrespective of the fact that the season still has 10 weeks to run.

On Saturday, a club, which has for so long accepted failure as a way of life, will take part in the fifth round of the FA Cup for the first time since its formation in 1907, a trip to Crystal Palace, the first division, being the prize for victory over Northampton Town in the previous round.

Rochdale's impressive cup run — four clubs have already been beaten en route to Selhurst Park — has been complemented by a string of good results in the League, elevating the club to the lofty heights of mid-table safety.

In the past 16 years, the highest position which this club has achieved is ninth from bottom. Terry Dolan, the team manager, said:

"The directors would be happy if we finish in the top half of the table this season. It would be regarded as an achievement and I am confident that it will happen."

Dolan has been in charge at Rochdale for just nine months, accepting the post eight weeks after he was dismissed as manager of Bradford City.

"It was the first, and only, time that I had been out of work since I left school, and it was a very unpleasant experience to say the least," he said.

"I continued to attend games during that period, but I was desperate to find another managerial job. The problem was that nothing really suitable came up until Rochdale approached me. They offered me a chance and I was grateful to accept it, even though I did so without agreeing a contract."

Dolan still lives in Bradford, and he is aware that following the boardroom re-shuffle last week at Valley Parade, speculation is already mounting about a possible return to the struggling second division club.

"I cannot do anything about all this talk. At a board meeting on Monday night, I was offered, and accepted, a deal which I am delighted that it has now all been sorted out because I think my directors were aware that I was anxious for a quick decision," Dolan said.

On his arrival at Rochdale, Dolan initiated a youth scheme which, with plans for a major improvement in ground facilities, should ensure a healthier future.

"It goes without saying that money is tight here," he said. "During the summer, I brought 14 players to the club, and not one of them cost a penny in transfer fees. Since then, I have spent a total of £30,000 on two other players, Andy Miller, from Manchester City, and Steve Elliott, of Bury, and collected £103,000 from the sale of three men," he said.

"On paper, that is a healthy profit, but to ensure young players to a club with a history of failure, we had no option but to increase the wage bill."

The game against Palace will give Dolan the opportunity to measure his side's obvious progress, and he is optimistic about the outcome.

No place like home: manager Terry Dolan has settled successfully at Spotland after parting company with Bradford City

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There is a big difference between first division and fourth division, although I do believe that the gap is closing fast. We have some players who, if we could take them to a replay, or even beat them, it would be unbelievable," he said. It is, as expected, Saturday's attendance in excess of 17,000, Rochdale could collect around £45,000 as their share of the receipts.

"That money will be most welcome. We must be the only fourth division club in history to have reached the fifth round of the FA Cup without making any money."

Beck said: "Against Millwall we kept it simple, played the ball early and worked hard at our game. We intend to do the same at Bristol. Our problem is the small squad of professionals we have at Cambridge. With only 16 on the staff, and inevitably three or four out injured or ill each week, we struggle sometimes to keep the balance right."

A tracklist, touchline manager, Beck leaves much of the pressing-room preparations to Gary Johnson, his assistant. Only just before the kick-off does he remind his players what he requires.

However, Beck is a realist and does not take his position for granted. "There is no doubt in my mind that sooner or later I'll get the sack," he said. "Management is one of those jobs you can only do to the best of your ability. I just hope that the inevitable happens later rather than sooner."

Reaching one of the promotion play-off places is Cambridge's main aim this season, although the Cup run has brought them much-needed revenue. Average attendances at the Abbey Stadium are around 2,500, but a near-capacity 10,000 packed in to see Millwall knocked out of the FA Cup.

On Saturday, Cambridge play Bristol City, of the third division, seeking a place in the last eight of the Cup for the first time in their 71-year history.

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Cambridge bracing themselves for Cup

By a Special Correspondent

John Beck, one of the newest managers in the Football League, puts his recent success with Cambridge United down to three factors: simplicity, hard work, and cold showers.

The third factor has not been universally welcomed by the players, although Beck, in charge at the Abbey Stadium for only six weeks, believes it has worked wonders.

The idea, said Beck, was introduced for away games. "We travel to most away games on match days because we can't afford to stay in hotels overnight. And after a lengthy coach journey the players are rather sluggish and slow starters on the pitch."

"So we introduced the cold water treatment. We put a stopwatch on each player for 10 seconds in a cold shower and then everyone has a bucket of cold water thrown over them."

Whether the players like it or not, the treatment seems to be having the desired effect. Cambridge have not lost since Beck took over the fourth division club from Chris Turner, who resigned as team manager last month.

The eight-match unbeaten run includes the FA Cup fourth-round victory against Millwall, which earned Beck the award for the fourth division manager of last month.

No-one escapes the cold shower treatment as Steve Clarke, a new signing, found to his dismay before last Saturday's home game against Exeter. "It was a big shock to say the least, but the manager said if I didn't join the others, I'd have to sit in the stand," he said.

Cambridge were two-down before half-time but recovered to beat Exeter 3-2.

Dion Dublin, the forward, said: "It's not the players' idea of fun, but the cold showers

company with Cambridge last week when the board decided not to appoint him as general manager."

Chris Turner gave me a lot of responsibilities which stood me in good stead," Beck said. "Obviously there is extra pressure on me because I have to make the final decision, but I have always had confidence in my ability and ideas in picking players."

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